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Bosnian Chief May Have Fled



The rope appears to be tightening around Radovan Karadzic.

NATO Forces Arrest 2 Suspects

By Chris Hedges
New York Times Service

PALE, Bosnia and Herzegovina — The Bosnian war-time leader and indicted war criminal Radovan Karadzic appears to have fled his mountain stronghold and may have gone into hiding outside Bosnia, according to senior Western officials and residents in Pale.

The reported flight of Mr. Karadzic follows the unannounced visit last week of tanks, armored personnel carriers and several hundred troops from the NATO-led Stabilization Force in this town, 16 kilometers (10 miles) southeast of Sarajevo. The NATO troops carried out an inspection of a police unit based in a factory where Mr. Karadzic has an office. They confiscated 10 assault rifles and 1,500 rounds of ammunition.

Meanwhile, two Bosnian Serbs indicted for war crimes were arrested by NATO forces. The two men, Miroslav Kvočka and Mladen Radic, were close allies of Mr. Karadzic during the war. They are charged by the war crimes tribunal in The Hague with running a detention camp in the

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Ginandjar Kartasasmita, the Indonesian coordinating minister for economics and finance, speaking Wednesday in Jakarta. To his left is the finance minister, Faud Bawazier.

Indonesia Sets 3d Plan With IMF For Bailout

But Critics Express Doubt on Effectiveness Of Proposed Reforms

By Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

SINGAPORE — Indonesia and the International Monetary Fund said Wednesday that they had agreed on the third plan in six months to rescue the economy of the world's fourth most populous nation, but doubts remained in financial markets that it would be any more effective than the previous two programs.

The agreement with the IMF was a comprehensive one, covering financial and banking reform, monetary policy, the budget and subsidies, structural changes and private foreign debt, according to Ginandjar Kartasasmita, the Indonesian coordinating minister for economics and finance.

Mr. Ginandjar said that under the new accord the government would stop granting monopoly privileges and would not bail out or subsidize any indebted companies.

But in one important concession to Indonesia, he said that the IMF had agreed that the government would continue subsidies on rice and soybeans, while fuel and power prices would be raised gradually, even though this would increase the budget deficit.

The proposed ending of subsidies had led to sporadic anti-government riots across Indonesia in recent weeks.

Mr. Ginandjar said other details would be made public Thursday after they had been given to the executive board of the IMF in Washington.

"We have measures in place and if they are not implemented, the program won't go ahead," the IMF's first deputy managing director, Stanley Fischer, said on a visit to Tokyo. "We have no assurance. We cannot have assurance, given history, that it will be done."

Speaking in Jakarta after a cabinet meeting, Mr. Ginandjar said President Suharto had ordered ministers to carry out the agreed reforms.

"The instruction from the president was that all commitments should be honored," he added.

He said that the Indonesia's previously high-flying economy was expected to shrink by 4 percent in the financial year ended in March, while inflation would average 17 percent. Some analysts regard these estimates as erring on the side of optimism.

The IMF — which organized more than \$40 billion in loans for Indonesia in October in exchange for reforms — suspended payment of a \$3 billion in-

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Levi Strauss Going Back to China Market

By Mark Landler
New York Times Service

HONG KONG — Five years after pulling out of China because of what it called "pervasive" human rights violations, Levi Strauss & Co. said Thursday that it would return to the country to make and sell its clothing.

"It's clear to us that the environment is getting better there," said Peter Jacobi, the president and chief operating officer of Levi Strauss, which manufactures its trademark denim pants and shirts in 12 Asian countries. "We basically felt that we should untie our hands."

Mr. Jacobi, who disclosed the decision in an interview here, said the company's action did not reflect a judgment on China's overall human-rights record, but merely its belief that Levi Strauss could find local contractors whose factories would adhere to the company's guidelines for labor conditions.

"Levi Strauss is not in the human-rights business," he said, "but to the degree that human rights affects our business, we care about it."

The company's action comes at a time of warming political and commercial ties between the United States and China. Several American companies, including Eastman Kodak and Coca-Cola, have announced major new investments in the mainland in recent weeks.

With President Bill Clinton scheduled to visit Beijing this June, business people here expect a flurry of new ventures.

One prominent Chinese labor activist, Han Dongfang, who formed China's first independent labor union during the Tiananmen Square uprising in 1989, said he welcomed the company's decision to return to China. Mr. Han added

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Democrats Countering Starr Report

New Attacks Are Aimed At Impeachment Study

By Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — With the prosecutorial staff of Kenneth Starr understood to be compiling a report on possibly impeachable offenses by President Bill Clinton, White House officials and Democrats in Congress are mounting a preemptive response, marshaling new attacks on the motives of Republican critics.

Mr. Starr's staff, under growing political pressure to conclude its four-year investigation of the president, has for the first time assembled what it believes is "substantial and credible information" of potentially impeachable conduct, thereby meeting a legal bar requiring it to report to the House of Representatives. The Washington Post reported Wednesday. The Associated Press later confirmed the substance of the Post report.

But Mr. Starr said Wednesday that no decision had been made on when or even if the findings would be forwarded to Congress. "Our investigation is still ongoing, and no decision has been made on the issuance, timing or contents of such a submission," he said. Mr. Starr did not deny, however, that a report was being compiled.

It is widely believed here that the independent counsel will forward a report to the House. The House Judiciary Committee has already begun expanding its staff and laying the groundwork to deal with possible impeachment hearings.

But while sources told The Post that Mr. Starr hoped to complete the report by the end of next month, an array of legal obstacles, including unresolved questions over executive privilege and possible testimony by a former White House intern, Monica Lewinsky, could mean delays.

At the same time, the dismissal last week of the Paula Jones sexual misconduct suit against Mr. Clinton has increased pressure on Mr. Starr to conclude his investigation, conducted to date at a cost exceeding \$30 million. Clinton defenders have begun more aggressively to depict the investigation as a politically motivated witch-hunt.

The House minority leader, Representative Dick Gephardt of Missouri, has asked fellow Democrats to compile lists of all the investigations conducted against Mr. Clinton by the Republican Congress and lay out the costs to taxpayers, according to Roll Call, a Washington political journal.

An unidentified Democratic leader said a final report, to be ready by April 21, would depict an "unprecedented and partisan" campaign by Republicans to "bury Clinton," Roll Call said.

Republicans denied such a coordinated attempt to undermine the president. "It's unfortunate this administration has given us so many instances of misconduct to look into," said Michele Davis, spokesman for the House majority leader, Representative Dick Armey of Texas.

Mr. Starr's inquiry evolved from an

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Newsstand Prices	
Andorra.....10.00 FF	Lebanon.....11.300
Antilles.....12.50 FF	Morocco.....16 Dh
Cameroon.....1.600 CFA	Qatar.....10.00 QR
Chad.....12.50 FF	Réunion.....12.50 FF
Egypt.....5.00 FF	Saudi Arabia.....10 SR
France.....1.100 FF	Senegal.....1.100 CFA
Gabon.....1.100 CFA	Spain.....225 Ptas
Italy.....2.800 Lire	Tunisia.....1.250 Din
Ivory Coast.....1.250 CFA	U.A.E.....10.00 Dh
Jordan.....1.250 JD	U.A.E.....10.00 Dh
Kuwait.....700 Ptas	U.S. Mtl. (Eur.).....\$1.20



Taipei Doubts Japan's Ability to Lead

Prime Minister Says China and Taiwan Should Cooperate to Help Asia

By Thomas Crampton
International Herald Tribune

TAIPEI — The prime minister of Taiwan said Wednesday he had concluded that Japan was unable to provide the regional leadership necessary to help extract Asia from its financial problems and feared that the falling yen might seriously harm Taiwan's economy.

Prime Minister Vincent Siew, in an interview, said domestic problems would curtail Japan's role in stabilizing regional economic and financial markets. This, he concluded, will make it imperative that Taiwan and China start cooperating to help crisis-hit Asian economies.

"In the past we could rely on Japan to help, but now they face their own troubles," Mr. Siew said. "Japan cannot play a very significant role to help other countries in the region to stabilize their financial markets." While he stopped

short of directly criticizing Japan's leaders, Mr. Siew joined the growing chorus of concern over Tokyo's ability to stimulate its economy and avoid a full-blown recession.

Taiwan's top economic policymaker warned, in a separate interview, that while Taiwan had thus far avoided the most serious consequences of the region's economic crisis, a further decline of the yen would hurt the island's economy a great deal.

"At the current level of 135 yen per dollar, the Japanese are forced to produce things themselves that they would otherwise buy from us," said Chiang Pin-kung, chairman of the cabinet-level Council for Economic Planning and Development. "A fall of the yen would hurt us a lot."

Taiwan ran a \$17 billion trade deficit with Japan last year, and Mr. Chiang said the trade gap could grow to \$20 billion

this year. Because of Japan's economic difficulties, Mr. Siew said he would continue to promote Taipei's proposal for cross-strait economic cooperation despite a hasty rejection of the idea by Beijing when it was floated Tuesday.

"We are very disappointed with their immediate reaction, but we hope that they will have a second thoughts," Mr. Siew said, adding that he would forward the proposal through the unofficial channels that were used to communicate with Beijing.

The spokesman for Beijing's Foreign Ministry on Tuesday repeated China's standard answer that Taiwan had no right to get involved in the affairs of sovereign states. China considers Taiwan a renegade province and has repeatedly fought the island's efforts to assist the crisis-plagued economies of Southeast Asia.

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Prime Ministers Urge Ulster Rivals to Compromise

By James F. Clarity
New York Times Service

BELFAST — Straining to meet a Thursday deadline for a peace agreement in Northern Ireland, the prime ministers of Britain and Ireland sought Wednesday to help Protestant and Roman Catholic political leaders in this mostly Protestant British province work out a compromise.

At the start of a day full of meetings with Catholic and Protestant leaders, Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain said: "There are still a lot of very hard questions to resolve. I'm here full of ideas and determination. I'm going to give it the very best try I possibly can."

Mr. Blair, clearly risking his authority and political image as a winner, added, "The people here deserve a better future than a life of bloodshed, murder and disharmony." But Mr. Blair stopped well short of predicting compromises that would allow the two sides to reach a peace agreement.

Mo Mowlan, the Northern Ireland secretary in Mr. Blair's cabinet, said late Wednesday afternoon that "progress is being made across all fronts" making an agreement "seriously possible" by the deadline. And David Trimble, the Protestant Ulster Unionist Party leader who created a mood of crisis Tuesday by rejecting a set of peace proposals, was uncharacteristically positive Wednesday about a possible agreement. "We have principles," he said, "but within those principles we can see a way of accommodating the views of others."

Mr. Blair also expressed "shock and horror" at the killing Wednesday of a Protestant man, alleged to have ties to a guerrilla group, by a small Catholic splinter group, the Irish National Liberation Army, which opposes the talks.

The main Catholic paramilitary organization, the Irish Republican Army, supports the talks and the participation of its political wing, Sinn Féin. The IRA



David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Party leader, passing by the Sinn Féin leader, Gerry Adams.

is observing a cease-fire it called last July; the principal Protestant guerrilla groups are also observing cease-fires. But failure to reach an agreement by midnight Thursday would probably lead to the resumption of sectarian violence by paramilitaries on both sides in Northern Ireland and by the IRA in Britain. Protestant guerrillas have threatened to re-

taliate with attacks in the overwhelmingly Catholic Irish Republic to the south if the IRA resumes its campaign.

The peace talks, designed to end a long history of political violence, including more than 3,200 deaths

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Earth's Plants Imperiled

One in 8 Species Threatened or Nearly Extinct

By Curt Suplee
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The first international survey of plant diversity has found that at least one in every eight known plant species on Earth is threatened with extinction or nearly extinct.

The results of a 20-year joint effort among 16 organizations show that habitat destruction and introduction of non-native species have caused approximately 34,000 species to become so rare that they could easily disappear. That amounts to 12.5 percent of the 270,000 fern, conifer and flowering species known worldwide.

Of the imperiled species, 91 percent exist in no more than one country.

Those statistics, the report emphasizes, "are just the tip of the iceberg" because so little is known about many areas, and "as more information becomes available, the situation will be shown to be even worse."

In the United States, which probably

has the planet's best-studied flora, about 29 percent of 16,000 species are at risk, according to the report. Similar percentages were recorded for Australia and South Africa. In general, the more detailed a country's species inventory, the higher its proportion of threatened plants.

To be classified as threatened, a species must have reached the point at which there are fewer than 10,000 individuals worldwide or fewer than 100 locations in which it is found. The study examined only vascular plants — those with tissues that conduct water and nutrients — and thus did not treat algae, lichens, fungi and the like.

"This is the first comprehensive assessment of threatened species we've ever had," said W. John Kress, chairman of the department of botany at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History. "It's a wake-up call to a major extinction event."

In some cases, entire plant families

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The Dollar	
New York	Wednesday 4 P.M. previous close
DM	1.8145 1.8373
Pound	1.6783 1.6674
Yen	131.325 133.48
FF	8.081 8.162

The Dow	
Wednesday close	previous close
-65.02	8891.48 8958.50
S&P 500	
change	Wednesday 4 P.M. previous close
-7.91	1101.84 1108.55

Tobacco Chief Says Settlement 'Is Dead'

The head of R.J. Reynolds Co. said Wednesday that because of roadblocks in Congress, the tobacco agreement negotiated last year "is dead." Steven Goldstone, chief executive officer of R.J.R. Nabisco Holdings, said his company would no longer work toward getting Congress to approve a comprehensive tobacco settlement. He said the legislative effort was "broken beyond repair." Page 4.

AGENDA

Japan Budget Aims To Jolt Economy

Japan enacted a budget Wednesday that paved the way for the government to consider the tax cuts demanded by its domestic and international critics, clearing a major hurdle in its efforts to rouse the slumping economy.

The \$584 billion budget was drafted in line with laws designed to cut the government's deficit. It clears the way for Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto to shift priorities from budget-cutting to economic stimulus.

Mr. Hashimoto is expected to unveil details of his economic plans Thursday and to convene a council Friday that could open the door to big tax cuts. Page 11.

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The IHT on-line: www.iht.com	

Lack of Faith in Tax System Spawns the Fearless Cheaters

France and

The IRS has a jaundiced view toward people who defend cheating as somehow more moral than

There are almost as many motives for tax dodging as there are dodgers. Many are related to attitudes toward government because the tax system — with more than 100 million returns filed annually — is government's most pervasive presence.

Yet even people who view themselves as moral citizens turn up as violators. Peter Max denounced "the government's baseless conduct" on the day of his indictment for tax evasion, noting he had painted for five presidents and was "proud to have served my country for so many years."

Similar outrage was voiced in a less publicized case of a wholesale produce company in the Bronx whose principals recently

That is precisely the moral argument behind tax-law enforcement: Cheating the IRS is in effect cheating neighbors or competitors who pay their full share. "Taxes are the price we pay for a civilized society," wrote the Supreme Court justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, a phrase set in stone over the entrance to IRS headquarters in Washington.

Inquiry on TWA Crash Finds Faults

The safety board's letter appeared to be intended to lay up the heat on the aviation agency and Boeing rather

- Require electrical surge-protection systems to prevent electrical power surges from entering tanks through the

Mr. Gayssot, the highest-ranking cabinet member from

It also allows Federal Express Corp. to make Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris its principal European hub, and

The accord permits an expansion of so-called code-sharing, the ability of an airline to operate joint flights with another. Thus Air

Jean-Cyril Spiliotis, said the results of the negotiation "place us on an even keel compared with our European competitors."

Report	Depth L	Mph. V	Pres. P	Phase	Snow S	Last Snow	Comments
Italy							
Bormio	0 150	60	Fair	Closed	Open	6/4	14/16 lbs open, good on 2200m
Cervinia	60 140	60	Fair	Closed	Open	7/4	30/25 lbs open, good on 2000m
Corvina	0 35	60	Fair	Closed	Open	7/4	some reasonable skiing available
Courmayeur	30 120	60	Good	Closed	Open	7/4	some decent open, good on new snow
Lungino	15 150	60	Fair	Some	Open	6/4	upper slopes still skiing well
Norvegia	10 40	60	Fair	Some	Open	8/4	4181 lbs open, 1700/1750mpan
Norway							
Gaio	40 50	Good	Open	Open	Open	8/4	all 18 lbs open, good on new snow
Switzerland							
Crans Montana	0 180	70	Fair	Closed	Open	7/4	some new snow 26-41 lbs open
Davos	25 175	70	Good	Some	Open	7/4	all 17 lbs open, great on 1700m
Engadina	10 100	60	Fair	Closed	Open	7/4	21/29 lbs open, good skiing
Grindelwald	10 40	60	Fair	Closed	Open	7/4	8-12 lbs open, excellent all off
Saas Fee	35 210	60	Good	Some	Open	7/4	14/25 lbs open, new snow all levels
St. Moritz	20 90	60	Fair	Some	Open	8/4	good! convalescence/leisure ski
Verbena	10 150	60	Good	Warm	Open	8/4	all 17 lbs open, new above 2500m
Wengen	0 30	60	Fair	Closed	Open	7/4	10/21 lbs open, good on 2000m
Zermatt	5 160	60	Good	Some	Open	7/4	71/73 lbs open, good on 2000m
U.S.							
Aspen	150 170	Good	Open	Open	Open	6/4	most 15 lbs open, mostly good
Breckenridge	145 180	Good	Open	Open	Open	7/4	15/20 lbs open, good, well groomed
Crested Butte	125 170	Good	Open	Open	Open	7/4	good skiing, plenty groomed
Mammoth	480 600	Good	Open	Open	Open	7/4	all trails open, generally very good
Park City	110 280	Good	Open	Open	Open	6/4	all 15 lbs open, good spring skiing
Steamboat	120 180	Good	Open	Open	Open	6/4	all 15 lbs open, good spring skiing
Wildcat Park	130 210	Good	Open	Open	Open	7/4	17/21 lbs open, good on 2000m

Europe

Today	Tomorrow		Today	Tomorrow	
	High	Low		High	Low
Algeria	13/15	7/14	13/15	4/28	3/1
Andorra	8/13	12/14	12/15	12/14	12/14
Ankara	25/17	9/14	25/17	12/13	3/1
Antwerp	15/17	10/14	15/17	12/14	12/14
Berlin	15/17	10/14	15/17	12/14	12/14
Bombay	25/17	9/14	25/17	12/13	3/1
Buenos Aires	15/17	10/14	15/17	12/14	12/14
Calcutta	25/17	9/14	25/17	12/13	3/1
Cebu	25/17	9/14	25/17	12/13	3/1
Colon	15/17	10/14	15/17	12/14	12/14
Hankow	25/17	9/14	25/17	12/13	3/1
Hong Kong	25/17	9/14	25/17	12/13	3/1
Kobe	15/17	10/14	15/17	12/14	12/14
London	15/17	10/14	15/17	12/14	12/14
Lyons	15/17	10/14	15/17	12/14	12/14
Manila	25/17	9/14	25/17	12/13	3/1
Medan	25/17	9/14	25/17	12/13	3/1
Osaka	15/17	10/14	15/17	12/14	12/14
Paris	15/17	10/14	15/17	12/14	12/14
Perth	15/17	10/14	15/17	12/14	12/14
Rangoon	25/17	9/14	25/17	12/13	3/1
San Francisco	15/17	10/14	15/17	12/14	12/14
Singapore	25/17	9/14	25/17	12/13	3/1
Sourabaya	25/17	9/14	25/17	12/13	3/1
Tokyo	15/17	10/14	15/17	12/14	12/14
Yokohama	15/17	10/14	15/17	12/14	12/14

Asia

Today	Tomorrow		Today	Tomorrow	
	High	Low		High	Low
Almaty	19/10	6/14	25/15	8/14	5/1
Bangkok	25/17	9/14	25/17	12/13	3/1
Beijing	25/17	9/14	25/17	12/13	3/1
Bombay	25/17	9/14	25/17	12/13	3/1
Buenos Aires	15/17	10/14	15/17	12/14	12/14
Calcutta	25/17	9/14	25/17	12/13	3/1
Cebu	25/17	9/14	25/17	12/13	3/1
Colon	15/17	10/14	15/17	12/14	12/14
Hankow	25/17	9/14	25/17	12/13	3/1
Hong Kong	25/17	9/14	25/17	12/13	3/1
Kobe	15/17	10/14	15/17	12/14	12/14
London	15/17	10/14	15/17	12/14	12/14
Lyons	15/17	10/14	15/17	12/14	12/14
Manila	25/17	9/14	25/17	12/13	3/1
Medan	25/17	9/14	25/17	12/13	3/1
Osaka	15/17	10/14	15/17	12/14	12/14
Paris	15/17	10/14	15/17	12/14	12/14
Perth	15/17	10/14	15/17	12/14	12/14
Rangoon	25/17	9/14	25/17	12/13	3/1
Singapore	25/17	9/14	25/17	12/13	3/1
Sourabaya	25/17	9/14	25/17	12/13	3/1
Tokyo	15/17	10/14	15/17	12/14	12/14
Yokohama	15/17	10/14	15/17	12/14	12/14

Unseasonably Mild

Unseasonably Cold

Heavy Rain

Heavy Snow

North America

Rain to move away from the East Coast Friday, followed by dry, windy and chilly weather Saturday and Sunday. Much warmer across the Plains Friday and Saturday, showers will arrive Sunday. Dry and quite warm in the Southwest Friday and Saturday; a little cooler, but not, on

Europe

Variable across southeastern Europe from Turkey through Italy, the Alps and southern France Friday through Sunday. Unusually cold weather will continue for much of the week in northern Europe from Oslo southward to Amsterdam and Paris. Damp and chilly in Spain Friday and Saturday; a thunderstorm may

Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune.

Greece Braces for a General Strike

LONDON (Reuters) — British Airways denied Wednesday that a collection of "world images" it introduced last year as

The Civil Aviation Authority said it had begun an inquiry after two pilots complained of being unable to identify BA planes, but it stressed that there was no safety risk.

THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

INTERNATIONAL

Tobacco Chief Calls Settlement 'Dead'

Reynolds Co. Will Not Cooperate Because of New Bill in Congress

WASHINGTON — The head of R.J. Reynolds Co. said Wednesday that his company would no longer work toward getting Congress to approve a comprehensive tobacco settlement.

He said that his firm stood behind a deal negotiated with 40 states last summer, but that tougher legislation now moving through Congress was not acceptable.

Steven Goldstone, chief executive officer of R.J.R. Holdings, said a leading legislative proposal was designed to raise money for government and might bankrupt his company.

The proposal, fashioned by Senator John McCain, Republican of Arizona, would require the tobacco firms to pay billions more than the deal reached last summer without providing full protection from smokers' lawsuits.

Mr. Goldstone said the legislative effort was "broken beyond repair."

"Today it is very clear to me that we have failed in our effort to achieve a comprehensive resolution of the contentious issues surrounding tobacco in

our country," he told the National Press Club.

Further, Mr. Goldstone said, "I have told my colleagues in the industry that effective today, I no longer see any purpose in working toward the June 20th national settlement."

He said he still supported the agreement negotiated last year, "but I see no possibility in this environment to achieve it." Because of the roadblocks in Congress, Mr. Goldstone said, the settlement "is dead."

President Bill Clinton, asked earlier Wednesday about speculation that R.J.R. would not support the tobacco bill, told reporters, "It certainly does not prohibit Congress from taking action to try to reduce teen smoking."

"I hope that R.J.R. will reconsider, but there are a lot of options left that still have to be explored," he said. "I've been working for two years on this. I don't intend to stop now."

The Clinton administration is urging Congress to enact even tougher legislation than the legislation passed by a Senate committee last week. The com-

mittee-passed bill would force tobacco companies to pay \$506 billion over 25 years and curb advertising that critics say helps lure teenagers to smoke. But the bill also would deny the industry much of the legal protection from product liability suits that it won in the proposed settlement last June.

Under that agreement, assuming Congress went along, tobacco companies would have paid just \$368 billion and won significant protections against lawsuits by smokers and their families.

With momentum gathering behind harsher terms, tobacco companies have repeatedly threatened to walk away from any deal. And their cooperation is important because the bill's restrictions on advertising could be challenged as unconstitutional.

Mr. Goldstone said tobacco companies had not realized "the depth of mistrust" toward their industry.

He said the administration, Congress and public health advocates had all worked to undercut the deal the tobacco companies reached with 40 state attorneys general.



Ian Paisley, head of Democratic Unionists, continued to voice his dissent.

ULSTER: Rivals Urged to Compromise

Continued from Page 1

In the last 29 years, were jeopardized Tuesday when the Ulster Unionist Party rejected a set of proposals that the party leader, Mr. Trimble, castigated as Catholic blueprint for a united Ireland, free of British control, run by the Dublin. A united Ireland, an abomination to most Protestants, is the goal of many Catholics, including the IRA and Sinn Féin.

The proposals were issued to the parties Tuesday by George Mitchell, the former U.S. senator who is chairman of the talks, after weeks of consulting with the parties and with the Irish and British governments, which sponsored of the talks and set the Thursday deadline. Within hours of the rejection of Mr. Mitchell's proposal, Mr. Blair flew here for a two-hour meeting with Mr. Trimble. The two posed smiling for photographers, but did not disclose their conversation.

But Mr. Trimble's allies made it clear that he wants any agreement to include a statement that the political status of the British province will not change without the approval of the majority, which is likely to remain Protestant well into the new century.

This guarantee is already stated explicitly in several formal policy documents signed by London and Dublin. Mr. Trimble needs that guarantee to fend off attacks by Protestant hard-liners that he is selling out the Protestant British heritage to Catholic terrorists. Wednesday morning, Mr. Blair met for 70 minutes with Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland.

Mr. Ahern then returned to Dublin for his mother's funeral, and was to return Wednesday night to the talks in Belfast. He is expected to urge the two Catholic parties, Sinn Féin and the mainstream Social Democratic Labor Party of John

Hume, to compromise.

Meanwhile, Mr. Ahern is under pressure from Mr. Trimble to disclose the specifics of his promise to tone down Ireland's constitutional claim to sovereignty in the North. The most difficult issues discussed Wednesday were the proposed steps to drastically change the political structure of the province, which has been ruled directly from London since 1972.

This involves the creation of two new governmental bodies, one an elected provincial assembly, the other a cross-border council with ministers from the North and from the Irish Republic. Catholics insist that the new assembly have lawmaking powers and a ministerial cabinet including Catholics, Protestants, fearing that this would give the Catholic minority too much power — and possibly give a cabinet post to Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president who is the devil incarnate for many Protestants.

The Catholics want the North-South council to have power to make binding decisions on both sides of the border in areas such as tourism and agriculture. Mr. Trimble and other Protestants see this as an Irish Trojan horse.

Ken Maginnis, the deputy leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, said, "We are not prepared to have an embryo all-Ireland government-in-waiting."

Mr. Adams, who abandoned his effort for an immediate united Ireland, is one of many Catholic leaders who want a strong cross-border group. Two months ago, the Irish foreign minister, David Andrews, confounded Protestants, and some officials in his own government, when he said the new cross-border body would be an embryo of an all-island government ruled from Dublin. Wednesday, Mr. Adams sounded tough, but not intractable. "We want to make peace with the Unionists," he said.

TAIWAN: Doubts Cast on Role of Japan

Continued from Page 1

Mr. Siew said: "This is not a political agenda; this is a financial and economic agenda. Why they have to complicate it into a sovereignty issue I just don't understand. If you want to turn all economic issues into political issues, then you simply cannot do trade."

Cooperation between Taiwan and China in the face of the economic crisis could allow the two sides to skirt thorny political issues and move cross-strait relations to a new level, Mr. Siew said.

China cut off negotiations with Taiwan for more than two years after a visit by President Lee Teng-hui to the United States in 1995. Since November, however, communications have been re-established, and there have been some signs of easing tensions.

"There are a lot of economic and financial issues," Mr. Siew said, "that require joint action, so we hope that our proposal could serve as a beginning for

future cooperation."

China and Taiwan must move to encourage stability among Asian markets, Mr. Siew said. Despite large currency devaluations by many of China's export rivals, Beijing has repeatedly said it would not devalue the yuan. A Chinese devaluation is widely viewed by economists and other analysts as a move that would be likely to set off another round of currency turmoil across the region and possibly around the world.

"We are not saying that the two sides can do it alone," Mr. Siew said, "but we can join together with many other countries and have the capability."

If Beijing agreed, Mr. Siew said, his proposal would link economies around the region in a manner complementing programs already put in place by the International Monetary Fund and Asian Development Bank.

"This would be done in parallel to multilateral organizations and focus on trade financing, technical assistance, encouraging investment and other issues."

A major impetus for such economic cooperation is the increasingly tight relationship between businesses in Taiwan and mainland China, Mr. Siew added.

While direct communication, trade, investment and travel links between the island and mainland China are still prohibited, Taiwan investors have poured investment into mainland business ever since restrictions were eased in 1987.

Exact figures are impossible to calculate because investments are registered in third countries, but the Taiwan government now estimates that companies from the island had invested \$26 billion in the mainland by the end of last year, up from \$1.5 billion a decade earlier.

Taiwan has recently started discouraging excessive investment on the mainland because of the dangers it could pose to the island's economy.

"We cannot afford to concentrate all our eggs in one basket," Mr. Siew said. "As long as mainland China does not renounce the use of force on Taiwan political risk is something that our businessmen will have to take into account."

Nonetheless, the level of Taiwanese investment on the mainland has now led to an ironic convergence of interests highlighted by the annual debates in the United States over the extending of most-favored-nation trading privileges to China. "If the United States did not give mainland China's most-favored-nation status, our investors would most definitely suffer," said Mr. Chiang of the Council for Economic Planning and Cooperation.

U.K. Scientists Fault Cancer Study

LONDON — British scientists heading a major international breast cancer study have criticized U.S. researchers for cutting short a drug trial and claiming that a drug halves the risk of developing the disease.

The Britons, including the doctor who pioneered trials with the drug, tamoxifen, accused the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland, of acting prematurely, jeopardizing the U.S. study, and perhaps raising false hopes.

At a news conference on Tuesday, they said the U.S. researchers would now be unable to establish whether tamoxifen actually prevents cancer in high-risk women and saves lives, or delays the onset of the disease.

"Our emphasis is to try and get long-term data from this trial," said Tony Howell of Christie's Hospital in Manchester, England, co-chairman of

the seven-nation, British-led research project called the International Breast Intervention Study. "Unfortunately, the Americans will not be able to do that now because, to be frank, they are prematurely stopping their trial," he said.

The study, so far involving 4,500 women in Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Spain, Finland, Switzerland and Belgium, began four years ago. The researchers say they hope a total of 7,000 women will participate. The final results are not expected for several years.

On Monday, officials at the institute defended their decision to end the 6-year-old tamoxifen drug trial. Dr. Leslie Ford said the standards set for the tamoxifen trial when it started were being followed. She said the trial was designed to ask whether tamoxifen could prevent breast cancer. "We all felt the question had been answered,"

she said.

She said a statistical evaluation showed there was a clear difference in the incidence of breast cancer among women taking the drug compared to women who were not. Since half of the 13,388 women in the trial were getting a placebo, the study was stopped so that all of them could benefit from the drug.

But experts in London said they felt the action was precipitous.

"The Americans have unblinded the trial, which means it will be unbalanced and they will not be able to answer many questions," said Dr. Trevor Powles of Royal Marsden Hospital in London.

Dr. Powles, who in 1986 headed the first pilot study on tamoxifen's supposed anti-carcinogenic effects, said it looked as if the benefits of the drug were likely to substantially outweigh the risks but it was too early to be sure.

BOSNIA: Karadzic May Have Fled Stronghold Under Pressure

Continued from Page 1

Bosnian town of Omarska, outside Prijedor. Many of the prisoners, who included Muslim and Croat leaders and intellectuals, were taken from the camp and executed, their bodies dumped down nearby mine shafts, according to investigators. The men were indicted in February 1995.

The arrests were carried out by specially trained units in an area of Bosnia under the control of British troops.

There are 74 people from the former Yugoslavia who have been indicted by the court publicly for war crimes. The court has also issued an unknown number of secret indictments. There are now 25 suspects in custody in The Hague.

Special forces from France, the United States, the Netherlands and Britain have been training for several weeks to carry out a possible abduction of Mr. Karadzic from Pale, the seat of the Bosnian Serb wartime leadership, according to Western diplomats. These officials, who said they were unsure where Mr. Karadzic was or if he had left Pale temporarily, said an effort to seize him within a few weeks was under "serious consideration."

"Karadzic's days at large are becoming shorter and shorter," said Carlos Westendorp, the top international official in charge of implementing the peace agreement in Bosnia. "His power base has diminished. He no longer has political control. His special police are now under the control of SFOR and the money he was able to make off the black market is scarcer and scarcer. The rope around his neck is tightening. Within a month he should be in The Hague, either because he goes voluntarily or because he is taken."

North Atlantic Treaty Organization commanders have estimated that they would need 800 troops backed by heli-

copter gunships and armor to capture Mr. Karadzic, who is guarded by 400 well-armed special police. These commanders have been reluctant to go ahead with a snatch, fearing a popular backlash by the Bosnian Serbs against the 34,000 NATO-led troops. NATO planners have estimated that the operation would leave between 20 and 40 dead among the assault force, a number considered too high by many NATO countries, especially France.

Western diplomats in Sarajevo, however, said they believed that the heavy firepower at the disposal of the NATO-led force would swiftly demoralize Mr. Karadzic's bodyguard. They also increasingly discount reprisals by Bosnian Serbs, who have seen their enclaves in Bosnia split into two parts, with a rival leadership based in Banja Luka openly condemning Mr. Karadzic and his associates as "war criminals."

"Two Apache attack helicopters and four tanks in front of his house would see these police surrender and leave like rats," a senior European diplomat said. "I doubt at this point anything would happen."

The town, with its dilapidated chalets and rows of forlorn women sitting on the central street selling cigarettes showed little life on Wednesday afternoon.

There were, however, signs that Mr. Karadzic's personal force had pulled out. A guard post less than a hundred meters from the three-story white-painted house of Mr. Karadzic, usually manned day and night, stood empty. The house itself, usually surrounded by the police, also appeared to have been abandoned. The factory where Mr. Karadzic works also appeared to be deserted and the usual contingent of police at the front gate withdrawn.

Neighbors of Mr. Karadzic said they noticed nothing unusual and insisted that he had not lived in his home for



Map showing the location of Sarajevo and Pale, the seat of the Bosnian Serb wartime leadership.

months. Western diplomats in Sarajevo warned that any country offering him refuge would be pressured to turn him over to the international court in The Hague.

The war crimes tribunal has charged Mr. Karadzic and the former Bosnian Serb military commander, General Ratko Mladic, who apparently remains at a well-guarded military base in Bosnia, with two counts of genocide. The Bosnian Serb leaders oversaw the murder of thousands of Muslims and Croats during the war and drove tens of thousands from their homes in a brutal campaign of "ethnic cleansing."

"He may have just left Pale temporarily," Mr. Westendorp said. "If I were him, I wouldn't stay in Pale. If these rumors about him going to Russia are true, then this will be a problem for the Russian authorities. He may also be in Serbia. I would guess that the only safe country for him at the moment is North Korea."

Rwanda Asks World To Prosecute Killers

KIBUYE, Rwanda — Four years after the genocide that left as many as a million dead, Rwanda has called on the international community to face up to its responsibilities and help bring the perpetrators of the killings to justice.

In a ceremony to commemorate the 1994 genocide and end a week of mourning, President Pasteur Bizimungu called on the European Union and Canada to extradite known criminals living in their countries.

"Here in Rwanda, we do not bear any grudge against Europe," he said. "But I want to also point out that it was the Europeans who are responsible for this type of chaos we have here."

He added: "People who were leading the genocide are free in Europe. Europe must bring them to book."

The EU special envoy to the Great Lakes, Aldo Ajello, was among foreign officials who attended the ceremony.

Rwanda remains beset by violence, with Hutu rebels stepping up their campaign against the Tutsi-dominated army since December, attacking refugee camps and other civilian and military targets.

Mr. Bizimungu also asked the Canadian government to extradite a former top official of the previous government, Leon Mugesera.

"I see the Canadian ambassador here," Mr. Bizimungu said. "Canada should extradite Leon Mugesera. Mr. Mugesera was a key aide to President Juvenal Habyarimana, an ethnic Hutu who was killed, along with President Cyprien Ntaryamira of Burundi, when his plane was shot down in April 1994."

LEVIS: Jeans Maker to Resume Its China Business

Continued from Page 1

that he hoped Levi Strauss would allow his organization to monitor the company's factories.

But the decision may exacerbate concern about conditions in Asian factories that churn out goods for American companies. Nike Inc. was criticized last year when an internal audit found unsafe working conditions at a plant that made Nike athletic shoes in Vietnam.

A new report by the National Labor Committee, a human-rights advocacy group in Washington, says that factories in China routinely work their employees 60 to 70 hours a week.

When Levi Strauss announced its withdrawal in 1993, it seemed to be a lone holdout against corporate America's stampede into China. No other American company has followed suit — a fact that human-rights advocates said demonstrated the difficulty of using corporations to push for social reforms.

"We always want the corporations to play a role because they're so influential," said Robin Munro, the director of the Hong Kong office of Human Rights Watch Asia. "But to get them to

flex those muscles is very hard."

Even Levi Strauss never fully abandoned China. The company still makes 800,000 units of clothing a year in the country — down from 3 million units before 1993. But it does not sell any clothing there.

Mr. Jacobi said Levi Strauss decided to withdraw from China after it found evidence of child labor, forced labor and a military presence at factories that produced Levi Strauss clothing. The company's guidelines prohibit it from using factories that permit child labor, forced labor or excessive work hours.

"We were concerned that our association with these kinds of things would put our reputation at risk," he said.

But Mr. Jacobi said Levi Strauss temporarily halted its "phased withdrawal" from China two years ago amid signs that labor conditions were improving. It decided to throw open the door to China after intense lobbying from its Asian division and after consulting other multinational companies active in the country.

The company, which is based in San Francisco, now even plans to start a direct-marketing operation in the mainland. It already has

such an operation in Hong Kong.

Jim Fraser, the president of Levi Strauss Asia Pacific, said China could become the key manufacturing center for the company's Japanese and Korean markets, which generate two-thirds of its \$468 million in Asian sales.

China's thawing relationship with the United States did not play a part in the company's decision, Mr. Jacobi said. But he acknowledged that it was easier to make such a move in this climate.

In 1993, Levi Strauss's decision to leave put an uncomfortable spotlight on the company. Mr. Jacobi said Levi Strauss would vigilantly monitor its new Chinese factories to make sure they complied with the guidelines. But some labor activists said that even well-intentioned companies have found it difficult to police every factory — in part because the contractors often dole out some work, such as sewing buttons or stitching pants, to smaller factories.

"We can't imagine how you could effectively manage these codes of conduct," said Jennifer Porges, a spokeswoman for the Asia Monitor Resource Center, a human-rights group that focuses on labor issues.

Netanyahu Sends Envoy To U.S. for Fresh Talks

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu dispatched a senior adviser to the United States on Wednesday for fresh talks on Israel's overdue West Bank withdrawal, and Jewish settlers threatened to seize more land if the Palestinians declared statehood.

Yitzhak Molcho headed to Washington in advance of a return visit to the region by the U.S. special envoy Dennis Ross. Mr. Ross is expected to arrive after Passover week, which begins Friday night.

"Molcho is taking with him progress reports," Mr. Netanyahu adviser's Uzi Arad, said on Israel's Army Radio. "The process is moving forward, and more progress is expected."

Mr. Arad said Mr. Molcho would also ask the Americans for "clarifications" on several points.

The United States is pressing Mr. Netanyahu to withdraw from 12 to 15 percent of the West Bank in the next stage of withdrawal, but Mr. Netanyahu has said he cannot give more than about 9 percent. Israel has engaged in a flurry of diplomacy aimed at preventing a public announcement of the U.S. initiative.

The Palestinians have said they expect far more than 15 percent in the next withdrawal, but have privately signaled they would accept the American plan.

Israeli news reports said Wednesday that Mr. Netanyahu's government was considering a plan under which Israel would turn over 9 percent of the West Bank to full Palestinian control, and 3 percent more to Palestinian civil control.

The Palestinians currently have full or partial control over 27 percent of the West Bank and most of the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli cabinet secretary, Danny Navon, speaking on Israel Radio, said he did not know of any such proposal.

Jewish settler leaders, meanwhile, said they were preparing a contingency plan in case the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, makes good on his vow to declare an independent Palestinian state if no final peace settlement is reached by the May 1999 deadline set in interim Israel-Palestinian agreements.

The settlers are pressing the government to pass a bill saying that if Mr. Arafat makes such a declaration, Israel will annex all territory under Israeli security control. Army Radio said.

■ Hamas Urges Attacks on Jews

The military wing of the Muslim militant group Hamas urged Muslims and Arabs around the world Wednesday to attack Jewish targets to avenge the death of a bomb-maker whose killing the group has blamed on Israel. Reuters reported from Jerusalem.

The group repeated its dismissal of the findings of a Palestinian Authority investigation released Monday that said the bomb-maker, Muhiyaddin Sharif, was killed by other members of Hamas.

PLANTS: Many Threatened

Continued from Page 1

are in trouble. For example, 75 percent of the yew family — which produces the anti-cancer drug taxol — is threatened with extinction globally. Even familiar groups are in trouble, including approximately 14 percent of roses, 32 percent of lilies and irises and 29 percent of palms.

Widespread extinctions might affect medical science, according to the report. More than half of all prescription drugs are modeled on natural compounds and a fourth are taken directly from plants or are chemically modified versions of plant substances.

"Plants have historically provided some of the most important drugs that we have," said a chemist, David Kingston of Virginia Tech University. That list includes such celebrated staples as morphine, aspirin and quinine, as well as a number of less common drugs such as anti-cancer medications derived from the periwinkle.

"We've screened about 50,000 plant species so far and gotten about 50 drugs," Mr. Kingston said. "So that's about one per thousand." The loss of 34,000 species, therefore, might doom development of 34 pharmaceuticals if the same ratio applies.

Diversity provides a biological buffer against things like climate change or migrations," said a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist, John Fay. "Every time we lose a species of plant we're losing a unique gene pool that has undetermined but possibly very significant benefits to mankind."

The 862-page report, titled "1997 IUCN Red List of Threatened Plants," was produced by the World Conservation Union, which is known as the IUCN, with the Smithsonian, the World Wildlife Fund, the Nature Conservancy, the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew and Edinburgh, and 10 other government and independent research and conservation groups in a half-dozen countries.

The U.S. figures from the report agree in general with a 1987 study from the Center for Plant Conservation in St. Louis, which found about 25 percent of American species in danger. Then as now, said Anukriti Sud, the center's manager of conservation programs, it is difficult to quantify the significance of shrinking biodiversity.

"We just don't know how important these things are," she said, "and that's what makes it so hard to say definitively that this is so terribly serious."

ASIA/PACIFIC

U.S. Envoy Learning Ways of Japan

Some See Former House Speaker as Being Too Lenient on Tokyo

By Sheryl WuDunn
New York Times Service

TOKYO — As everyone from President Bill Clinton down hammers Japan these days to stimulate its economy, Thomas Foley is being a little bit more polite.

Mr. Foley, the former speaker of the House who is the new American ambassador to Japan, is conveying much the same message. But right now in Tokyo, his soft and diplomatic style may make him a more welcome envoy in the offices of Prime Minister Kyutaro Hashimoto.

Mr. Foley lives in a luxurious mansion, catered to by a domestic staff of 13 — not including his two Japanese bodyguards — and enjoys the status and privilege of a minor deity in Tokyo. But even Mr. Foley, who at 6 feet 2 inches (1.88 meters) towers over his Japanese counterparts as he exhorts them on weighty issues like the economy, is careful not to drop the full weight of American pressure

on the leaders here.

He knows himself what it is like to be put regularly in his place, especially by a small, elderly woman wearing a traditional kimono: his Japanese teacher.

"She has a very acute sense of what the proper Japanese form is," Mr. Foley said. "I'm looking for the shortest, quickest, easiest phrase, and she's, 'No, no, that's not really the best.'"

Mr. Foley is unlikely to be taken any time soon for a native Japanese speaker. But as he wrestles with beginning language classes, he also has an image to overcome as a longtime friend of Japan.

There was some grumbling in American business circles here, even in the U.S. Embassy, that Mr. Foley throughout his career had been too cozy with Japan and that he might not be tough enough.

His predecessor, Walter Mondale, was a tough negotiator, while some trade hardliners worry that Mr. Foley may be a member of what is

derisively referred to as the Chrysanthemum Club, meaning those who applaud Japan a bit too heartily.

They note that Mr. Foley has long been warmly regarded here, partly because of his roots in the Pacific Northwest, where trade with Japan is significant. He was only the fourth American ever to receive Japan's highest civilian honor, the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun, the Paulownia Flowers, named after one of Japan's national flowers.

Since he arrived in November, Mr. Foley has cut ribbons at American trade shows, offered remarks at a Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet, eaten grilled salmon cooked in American styles, and held breakfasts for local American business groups.

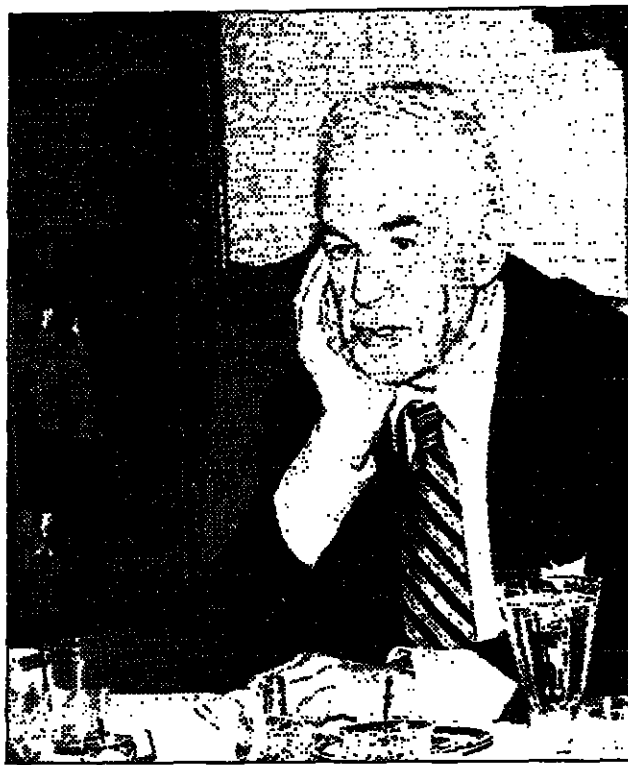
Mr. Foley has also tried to use his long friendship with Japanese officials to his advantage. As a congressman for 30 years, five of them as speaker, Mr. Foley regularly visited Japan.

"He has been pretty visible," said Glen Fukushima, president of the American Chamber of Commerce of Japan and a former Commerce Department official. "He's built up a Rolodex of Japanese contacts over the years, especially in politics."

Yet Mr. Foley has been a bit less public than some other U.S. officials in twisting Japanese arms to get Tokyo to stimulate its economy. In the last few months, Clinton administration officials have been increasingly blunt in demanding that Japan take major steps to boost its economy to help Asia out of its financial crisis and avoid a global downturn.

Mr. Foley has argued the same case, but at least publicly, with a bit less heat than some Washington officials.

Still, Mr. Foley met briefly on Tuesday with Mr. Hashimoto, who plans to announce tax cuts on Wednesday. And he held meetings at the Finance Ministry last December just a day or so before Mr.



Tom Foley has an image as a longtime friend of Japan.

"We're not pulling our punches," Mr. Foley said. "We're being frank and candid on the economic side. We can give our advice and recommend, but ultimately it's not a matter where we can determine the decision."

Minister in India Quits Before Trial

Reuters

NEW DELHI — The minister for surface transport resigned Wednesday after a court that was investigating corruption ordered him to stand trial.

The resignation of the minister, R. Muthiah, was the first setback to Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's 20-day-old coalition government, an alliance that was put together more than a week after India's inconclusive general elections ended.

Mr. Muthiah is a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party's key southern ally, the All-India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam party.

President K.R. Narayanan, who accepted the resignation on the advice of the prime minister, directed Law Minister M. Thambidurai to also take over the Surface Transport Ministry, a statement from the presidential palace said.

Mr. Muthiah, who belongs to a key Tamil regional constituent of the Hindu nationalist-led government, said he was innocent of the allegations of corruption for which a special court in the southern city of Madras said he should stand trial.

The court said Tuesday there was prima facie evidence to try Mr. Muthiah on charges of acquiring assets disproportionate to his known sources of income while he was speaker of the Tamil Nadu state legislature from July 1991 to October 1994.

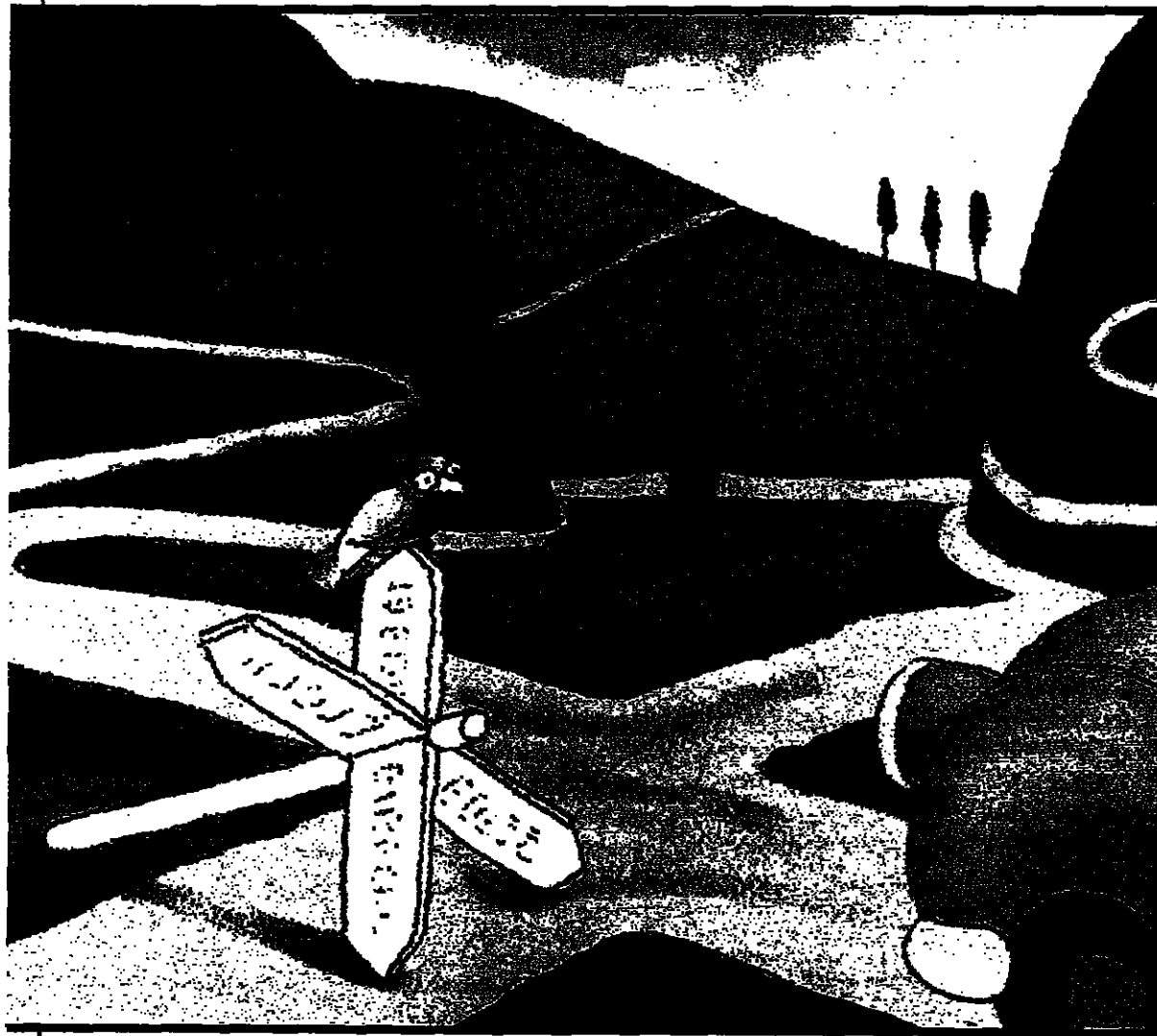
"The inputs provided by the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption are enough to frame charges against him," the judge ruled after dismissing defense arguments that the case against the minister was politically motivated.

The Press Trust of India news agency quoted Mr. Muthiah as saying he had resigned on moral grounds and would prove his innocence in court.

"This is nothing but political vendetta," Mr. Muthiah was quoted as saying.

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PARIBAS Thinking beyond banking

Hong Kong Authority Wraps Up

HONG KONG — The appointed legislature that took office when Hong Kong returned to Chinese rule wrapped up its work Wednesday in a flurry of self-congratulation and bitter criticism foreshadowing an election campaign that will highlight Beijing's future role.

Although China has generally been credited with keeping hands off Hong Kong, human-rights groups and political parties pressing for more democracy say they see worrying signs of a slow rollback in the rule of law.

They charge that the legislature, appointed by China when it regained sovereignty on July 1, failed to challenge the Hong Kong government on any key legislation.

The legislature was "simply a rubber stamp," Yeung Sum, a leader of the Democratic Party, Hong Kong's largest, said. "The coming legislature will be totally different."

Members of the legislature declared their work historic, and denied it was a rubber-stamp body. The new legislature will be elected May 24. (AP)

China Fights Over Holy Tooth

BEIJING — Adding a strange twist to its longtime rivalry with Taiwan, China claimed Wednesday that a holy tooth that Taiwan is hoping will improve the island's fortunes may not be so special after all.

Yet China's attempt to cast doubt on the authenticity of the tooth believed to have come from the mouth of Buddha appeared motivated more by politics than religion. While questioning the tooth's origins, Chinese officials have sought to have it brought to China, rather than Taiwan.

The 2,000-year-old tooth was given to Taiwan by Buddhist monks in India who say it was taken from a temple in Tibet in 1968.

The tooth is to arrive Thursday from Thailand. Thai authorities resisted Chinese pressure to return it to China, according to Master Hsin Yun, whose Fu Kuang Temple will house the tooth in Taiwan.

President Lee Teng-hui is to attend a mass prayer ceremony for the tooth Saturday. (AP)

Protest in Beijing Over Subway

BEIJING — Dozens of Beijing residents staged a rare public protest Wednesday over plans to demolish their homes to make way for a new subway line.

Witnesses said up to 50 people gathered outside the headquarters of the Beijing city government, just a few blocks from Tiananmen Square, the heart of the Chinese capital.

They were persuaded to leave in a bus provided by authorities, but only after a confrontation with roughly the same number of police officers. (Reuters)

16 Indonesia Students Injured

JAKARTA — Policemen fired tear gas and used riot sticks to stop students from marching into the streets during an anti-government campus protest Wednesday in Indonesia's second largest city, Surabaya.

Witnesses said at least 16 students were injured. Several thousand students from 13 universities joined the rally at the state-run Airlangga University, said Andi Ardianto, a lawyer from the Indonesian Legal Aid Foundation. He said two students were hospitalized. (AP)

Cambodia Approves Rally Aimed at Prince

The Associated Press

PHNOM PENH — Plans for a rally on Friday that will call for barring the royal family from politics have received government approval, the Interior Ministry announced Wednesday.

The protest is clearly aimed at Prince Norodom Ranariddh, who was deposed as co-prime minister last year, and will be staged a day before the scheduled return of his father, King Norodom Sihamoni, from medical treatment in China.

The demonstrators are scheduled to march on the National Assembly and to call on that body — which is overwhelmingly controlled by Prince Ranariddh's arch-rival, Hun Sen, to amend electoral laws to ban members of the royal family from politics.

Prince Ranariddh returned to Cambodia from nine months of exile for a five-day visit last week that was marred by violence by pro-Hun Sen demonstrators. The prince, currently in

Bangkok, plans to return again to meet his father in the northern city of Siem Reap.

Meanwhile, a Cambodian labor union said it was planning a rally Friday against factory owners who did not obey labor laws.

Foreign-owned garment factories have been accused of imposing harsh conditions on their workers in Cambodia, such as forcing overtime, paying substandard wages and not allowing sick leave.

The U.S. State Department urged American citizens to stay clear of the labor demonstration, fearing a repeat of a lethal grenade attack against a similar protest a year ago.

The Free Workers Trade Union is allied with the opposition politician Sam Rainsy. When a demonstration led by Mr. Rainsy, consisting mostly of women textile workers protesting Mr. Hun Sen's control of the judiciary, was attacked with grenades in March 1997, at least 16 people were killed and more than 100 wounded.

Berlin Rebu

Helsinki La-he-O

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Euphonia

Bar-Right

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As Berlin Rebuilds for the Future, the Nazi Past Keeps Resurfacing

By Alan Cowell
New York Times Staff Writer

BERLIN — For 10 years or so, Dietmar Arnold has been seriously, heavily into the underground. Not the political or musical underground, but the physical underground: the tunnels, caverns, bunkers, sewers and cavities that, he says, provide a subterranean history of Berlin that may soon be lost under the city's gargantuan rebuilding.

Here, Mr. Arnold, a 33-year-old city planner, says as he prods at the charts and diagrams that adorn a recently published book on the subject: are the places where Hitler and Eva Braun took refuge: here are the underground postal tubes that moved mail at a brisk 100 meters per minute (the forerunner of the fax?), and here are places where spies dwelt and would-be escapees

from communism found mole-like routes to freedom.

The latest discovery Mr. Arnold has chronicled, photographed and measured, though, raised other issues. The city authorities recently discovered the bunker that ran underneath the villa built for Josef Goebbels, Hitler's propaganda minister. And, embarrassingly enough, they also discovered that it ran perilously close to another site, the projected location of Berlin's contentious memorial to the Jews of Europe slain in the Holocaust.

The discovery of the Goebbels's bunker has opened a new argument that Mr. Arnold puts like this: If the dreadful results of Nazi genocide are to be eternalized in stone, then should not the sites of Nazi planning also be preserved?

It is one of Berlin's quirks that while other cities, like Paris and Moscow, have more extensive subterranean networks, and while yet others, like New York, boast deeper tunnels, none of those cities is being rebuilt as Berlin is.

And given Berlin's history — bombed and battered in World War II, and divided by a sterile "death strip" and later a wall — it is no surprise that the metropolis is rising atop what Hitler had planned as a 1,000-year Reich. "What is amazing enough is that no one had previously thought of exploring the earth underneath the former governmental quarter of the one-time imperial capital," wrote Wilfried Mommert, a journalist.

It is also true that Berlin is already freckled with monuments to that era, among them the Wannsee villa on the city's outskirts where the planning for Holocaust was finalized in January 1942, and the Sachsenhausen concentration camp.

Yet, the location of Goebbels's bunker provides almost a metaphor for postwar Ger-

many: Even as the nation craves a future in which it can come to terms with its modern history, it is undermined by the past.

Thus, Mr. Arnold said, historical records show that Berlin once boasted some 600 bunkers used for a variety of purposes, particularly to protect against Allied air raids during the war. So far, only 480 have been opened, measured and chronicled, he said.

"There are some bunkers that are important for the history of the city, and it's important that they shouldn't disappear because they reflect the entire epoch," he said.

In the area near the projected Holocaust memorial, he counted off a series of underground installations: Hitler's personal bunker, now covered by a parking lot; the bunker beneath Hitler's new chancellery building, now covered by a grassy knoll, and the bunker used by official

drivers. "Building the Holocaust memorial is not enough," Mr. Arnold said.

"Around here were all the people who organized the Holocaust. But people just want to destroy the bunkers and sweep the whole thing under the carpet."

Some would argue, by contrast, that the authorities do not really know what to do with these embarrasements from the past. In 1992, journalists, but not the general public, were allowed to enter some bunkers, which were then sealed.

According to Mr. Arnold, the bunker where Hitler and his mistress spent the final days of the war before their suicide was filled in by the East German authorities. On exactly the spot where a distinctive ventilation tower once stood over Hitler's personal concrete lair, Mr. Arnold said, there now stands a portable toilet used by construction workers.

Yeltsin Lashes Out at Latvia

He Calls for Reprisals for Treatment of Ethnic Russians

By David Hoffman
Washington Post Staff Writer

MOSCOW — A simmering dispute over the treatment of ethnic Russians in Latvia intensified Wednesday as President Boris Yeltsin threatened to take economic reprisals such as rerouting Russian oil exports away from the Baltic state.

After a month of rhetorical jousting between Russia and Latvia, Mr. Yeltsin for the first time endorsed calls by Russian politicians to tighten the economic noose around Latvia in retaliation for the treatment of Russians there.

Sergei Yastrzhembsky, a presidential spokesman, told the Interfax press agency that Mr. Yeltsin supported the "targeted" measures against Latvian goods that were proposed this week by Russian regional leaders, including Mayor Yuri Luzhkov of Moscow. Mr. Yastrzhembsky said that these measures would stop short of official sanctions.

The dispute was triggered by an incident in Riga, the Latvian capital, on March 3, when several thousand Russian-speakers, many of them pensioners, held a demonstration to protest increased residential fees and to demand that Latvia continue to recognize their Soviet-era passports.

Latvia, which became independent in 1991, has imposed stiff citizenship requirements, including language proficiency tests, that many older Russian-speaking people cannot meet. About 700,000 people, or one-third of the Latvian population, is Russian-speaking.

Police dispersed the rally by force, and the incident unleashed a torrent of criticism from Russian politicians. Mr. Luzhkov accused Latvia of "genocide" on March 31 and has led a campaign to impose economic sanctions.

On Wednesday, Mr. Yastrzhembsky said Mr. Yeltsin had ordered the government to "pay the most serious attention to the possibility of diversifying the routes of Russian oil exports" away from Latvia. Serving as a conduit for Russian oil and gas exports is a major source of revenue for Latvia. Overall, Latvia's Ventspils port handled 11 percent of Russian oil exports last year, making it second in importance only to the Novorossiysk port on the Black Sea in Russia, which handled 25 percent.

Latvia may be hurt severely by Russian sanctions. Latvian officials have said Russia is its biggest single trading partner. In 1997, Russia accounted for 21 percent of Latvia's \$1.65 billion in exports and 15.6 percent of the \$2.7 billion in imports.

In practice, Mr. Yeltsin's instruction to look for new oil routes may take years to realize, requiring construction of a new port on the Gulf of Finland and new pipelines linking the Tengiz oil fields in Kazakhstan with the Russian port at Novorossiysk. But the threat could encourage Russian oil and gas companies, and others, to tighten the screws on Latvia. There have been reports that as much as \$300 million in Latvian goods are being delayed in Russian customs warehouses.

servatives weeks before an important state election, erupted after the Christian Democratic Union, Mr. Kohl's party, proposed raising the tax on energy. The plan was rejected by the Bavarian-based Christian Social Union, partners in the coalition government, which said the increase would jeopardize Germany's competitiveness.

Mr. Protzner was quoted in a local newspaper as saying Mr. Kohl's statement meant the coalition would not insist on an automatic increase in energy prices, suggesting there was no difference between

the two parties' positions on the issue. Mr. Protzner also said he expected the two parties to produce a joint election manifesto, dismissing suggestions that the Christian Social Union planned its own text.

Raising the energy tax has become one of the most contentious issues in the run-up to the election in the eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt on April 26, the penultimate state election before general elections are held in September. Last month, coalition members had ridiculed the Greens for proposals to triple gas prices over the next 10 years.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Wednesday's attack. But Yiannis Giorgopoulos, the Greek police subcommander, said: "All the evidence points to November 17."

November 17 is the only terrorist group in Greece known to use rockets. Built around a mix of ultra-leftist and nationalist ideologies, the group is named for the day in 1973 when the then ruling military junta crushed a student uprising in Athens.

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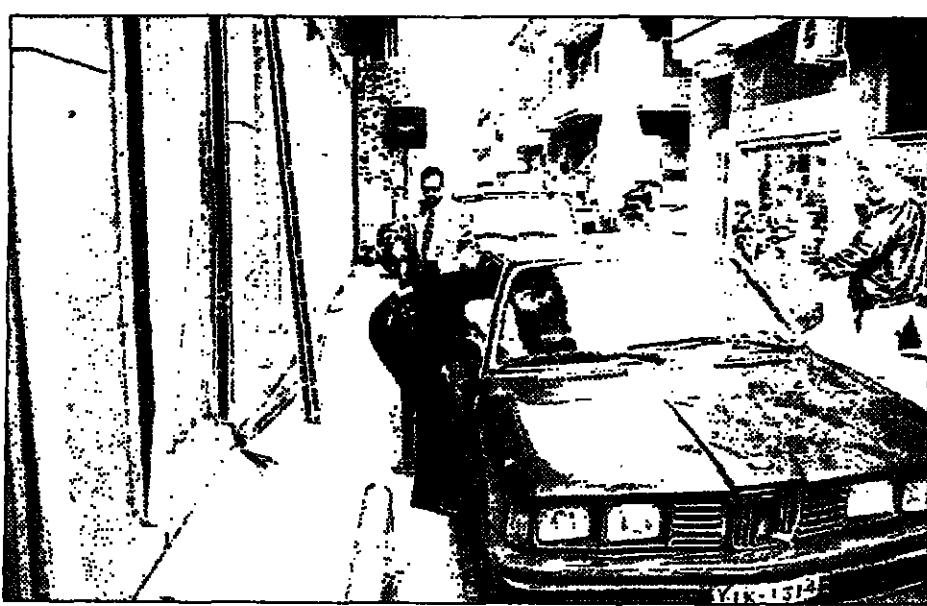
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Greek anti-terrorist police searching for evidence Wednesday outside the bank.

U.S. Bank Hit by Rocket in Athens

The Associated Press

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BRIEFLY

Russian Protesters in Streets

MOSCOW — The Justice Ministry issued an appeal for order on Wednesday as the first protesters took to the streets on the eve of nationwide labor protests.

Trade unions and leftist political groups plan to stage strikes and demonstrations over mounting wage arrears that have left many on the breadline. About 2 million stopped work or joined rallies across Russia in a similar day of action a year ago.

The Justice Ministry said tensions were high and, noting a rise in "politically intolerant statements by public figures," it cautioned against playing on racial, ethnic and social divisions and against "fascism and other forms of extremism." (Reuters)

Austria Pressured on Artworks

VIENNA — The opposition Greens party urged the government on Wednesday to clarify the origin of 241 artworks in Austrian museums that are believed to have been taken from Jews by the Nazis.

The Greens submitted a parliamentary request for information addressed to Elisabeth Geisler, the minister in charge of museums.

In February, Miss Geisler gave the first government promise to shed light on works the state kept back after 1945. She decreed that museums must clarify "beyond any doubt" their provenance. (AP)

Cyprus Prelate Assails Gays

NICOSIA — The leader of Cyprus's Greek Orthodox Church, Archbishop Chrysostomos, has made a scathing attack on homosexuality as the Council of Europe gave the country one more month to decriminalize gay sex. Only "enemies of our nation" would endorse decriminalization of homosexual acts, the archbishop said in remarks published in newspapers here Wednesday.

"If we don't stand firm and tell Europe this does not conform, not only to Christ's religion, but also to the moral standpoint of our nation, eventually they will come and tell us to be homosexuals in order to be accepted into Europe," he was quoted by the Cyprus Mail as saying. (AFP)

Vatican Dismisses Spying Claim

ROME — The Vatican dismissed as fantasy on Wednesday an Italian intelligence report claiming that the Soviet KGB eavesdropped on the private residence of the Pope's chief negotiator with the Kremlin.

The intelligence report alleged that Marco Torretta, nephew of the former Vatican state secretary, Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, had been a KGB agent since the late 1950s and husband to a Czech woman, who used him to conceal microphones in Cardinal Casaroli's Vatican residence.

Joaquin Navarro, a Vatican spokesman, said, "This story is so fantastic it doesn't deserve a denial except to say that no nephew of the cardinal of that name exists."

The report issued Tuesday also claimed the Soviet secret police had plotted to discredit and possibly assassinate Pope John Paul II. (AFP)

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Saudi Transition

King Fahd's recent hospitalization was a reminder of the 76-year-old Saudi monarch's frailty. Power has been shifting to his half brother, Crown Prince Abdullah ibn Abdulaziz, since the king suffered a stroke in 1995. The crown prince is not as quick to embrace some American policy positions as King Fahd and is more sympathetic to Arab and Islamic causes. But the coming transition need not upset relations between Washington and Riyadh.

Saudi Arabia is an absolute monarchy, where oil revenues lubricate corruption among royal princes and civil liberties are denied. But its policies, and its stability, are critically important to the United States. The kingdom plays a dominant role in setting oil prices, and its support is essential to Washington's ability to project military power in the Gulf.

Recent outbreaks of Islamic terrorism in Saudi Arabia, including attacks against American installations there, are an indication of problems in the kingdom that Washington cannot afford to ignore. Reduced Saudi oil revenues and excessive purchases of expensive military equipment have created an un-

accustomed fiscal squeeze that the Saudi government needs to address.

Prince Abdullah has been frank about giving Saudi Arabia's national interests, as he sees them, precedence over diplomatic exhortations from Washington. He is friendly with Syria, has drawn attention to the suffering of Iraqi civilians and has led in repairing Saudi relations with Iran.

But his more independent approach is not necessarily bad for America. Though like King Fahd he resisted new U.S. military action against Iraq this year, Prince Abdullah seems to understand the dangers Saddam Hussein continues to pose to Saudi Arabia. He has also called for reforms of the financial, welfare and education systems and for a crackdown on corruption.

It is regrettable that the interests of the world's most powerful democracy are tied to the narrow dynastic politics of the Saudi leaders. One way to make that dependence less risky in the future and more bearable today is for Washington to encourage Prince Abdullah not only to modernize, but also to make Saudi Arabia more democratic.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

Nonthreatening Merger

Congress dithers, so John Reed of Citicorp and Sanford Weill of Travelers Group grandly propose to modernize financial markets on their own. They have announced a roughly \$78-billion merger — the biggest in history — that would create the largest financial services company in the world, worth more than \$140 billion. If the merger is approved by regulators, Citicorp, as the company will be called, will serve about 100 million customers in 100 countries. In one stroke, Mr. Reed and Mr. Weill will have temporarily demolished the increasingly unnecessary walls built during the Depression to separate commercial banks from investment banks and insurance companies.

Mr. Reed and Mr. Weill would exploit legal and regulatory loopholes in the law to combine Citicorp, which provides commercial bank services, and Travelers, which offers insurance products and stocks, bonds and other securities. Because Citicorp would offer customers a huge menu of financial services, Mr. Reed and Mr. Weill envision profitable cross-selling. While Mr. Reed provided credit cards to Mr. Weill's insurance customers, Mr. Weill would sell securities to Mr. Reed's bank customers.

Some consumer advocates oppose the merger because, they fear, financial behemoths inevitably threaten ordin-

ary consumers. But one-stop financial shopping could actually protect naive investors. Under current laws, such investors can be pulled in contradictory directions by bankers offering retirement accounts, insurance agents offering annuities and securities dealers offering mutual funds. An institution that sells all these products can steer customers toward the product that best serves their needs.

The fact is that Citicorp threatens no one because it would not dominate banking, securities, insurance or any other financial market.

Customers might prefer cozier banks, and Mr. Reed and Mr. Weill might not be able to merge their egos. In that case, shareholders would lose. A collapse in the company's securities and insurance operations could drag down its commercial bank. But that will happen only if federal regulators fall sound asleep.

The proposed merger takes advantage of rules that allow commercial banks to operate alongside smaller securities companies and, for up to five years, insurance companies. Mr. Reed and Mr. Weill are betting that before the five-year window closes, Congress will finally bring banking laws into the modern era. If they can make the merger work for consumers, even Congress might follow.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

UN Scolding Rankles

It rankles to hear the United States brought up at the United Nations on human rights charges. The world body, though it has changed, has not entirely escaped its earlier identification as home of a mutually protective majority of Communist and Third World rights violators. Some members ready to snipe at the performance of others shield their own continuing crudities behind the walls of a one-party state. This is the tradition evoked by a report of the UN Human Rights Commission on the death penalty in the United States.

A commission specialist from Senegal spent three weeks last fall investigating the practice. He was denied access to some number of federal and state justice and prison officials. His conclusions were that "race, ethnic origin and economic status appear to be key determinants of who will, and who will not, receive a sentence of death" and that executions of juveniles, retarded and mentally ill convicts are in violation of the 1966 International

Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. He urged a moratorium on these killings while the states fix new rules.

The critique is familiar to, and accepted by, many Americans. Many would go further and outlaw capital punishment. Nonetheless, some Americans have exploded, adding the incident to the indictment of the UN for intrusive political one-sidedness.

The United States needs no advice from the UN on domestic practices. But the United States does need an effective institutional mechanism by which to transmit corrective messages to places that are not open and democratic. Irritation at being gratuitously scolded is a modest price to pay to deny the real rule-breakers the comfort of hiding behind American hostility to that mechanism.

The idea that opening up the American criminal justice system to international scrutiny establishes a moral equivalence with, say, the Chinese system is misplaced, not to say absurd.

—THE WASHINGTON POST

Fill the Benches

It seems that Senate Republicans would rather inflict damage on the U.S. judicial system than fulfill their constitutional responsibility to act with reasonable dispatch on President Bill Clinton's judicial nominations.

Five of the 13 active judgeships on the busy 2d Circuit Court of Appeals, covering New York, Connecticut and Vermont, are now vacant. Last week, the circuit's chief judge declared a judicial emergency. To minimize the disruption of cases, he authorized three-judge panels to be composed of only one 2d Circuit judge, with two visiting

judges. Even so, he has been forced to cancel some hearings this month.

Chief Justice William Rehnquist publicly chastised the Senate in December, warning that perpetuating the present 10 percent vacancy rate on the federal bench nationwide would inevitably erode the quality of justice.

But the confirmation process has become mired in ideological warfare. In the first three months of this year, the Senate has confirmed only 20 of more than 50 candidates submitted.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

Coming to Terms With the War: It's Now or Never

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — No day is created anew in Europe, a continent colonized by its own past and memory. Americans often see themselves embarking into each new dawn armed with a mandate to overcome or escape the past by day's end. That American dream will provoke smiles, or jeers, in Paris or in Warsaw.

Today is no exception: While Americans are psychologically absorbed in preparing for the 21st century, Europeans are using the final months of the millennium to come to terms with the last vestiges of World War II and the heinous international crimes that conflict inspired.

This effort is occurring in Europe's courtrooms, museums, banks, political parties and foreign ministries — in places where individual and national responsibilities for the past can be apportioned and converted into gain, justice or simply more memory.

Each effort is in one sense individual: stolen French art looted by the Nazis and then "lost" in private or state collections; Swiss bank accounts and assets hidden from Holocaust survivors or relatives; a belated German treaty that finally recognizes 60-year-old wrongs done to Czech refugees, or a variety of xenophobic political movements that distort history to enhance

and exploit modern racial tension.

But these events and investigations are tied together by the reality that the life span of war criminals, victims, veterans and even the children who were touched by the war, however tangentially, is drawing to a close. Chronologically, the time to come to terms with World War II's outstanding liabilities is now.

Or never. Collectively, the discussion of and action on history's lingering claims also concerns national identity at century's turn.

Once-deferred questions gain urgency today as Europeans move into a still uncertain continental redefinition of their money, politics and social contracts through the process of European Union integration.

The physical destruction and Cold War division of Europe wrought by World War II have faded, while the conflict's moral consequences have not been put to rest. Moral questions are surfacing acutely in countries that occupied the dubious middle ground of accommodation during wartime and then allowed national institutions to develop a remarkable forgetfulness

about the fruits of Nazi conquest that came their way.

The continuing search for Nazi gold hidden abroad in state treasuries and for Swiss bank accounts holding Holocaust victims' assets are part of the unsettled legacy of the conflict. So are political demonstrations by SS veterans in Latvia and young neo-Nazis in Austria and Germany.

The concern about identity and history is most clearly seen at the moment in France, where the six-month trial of Maurice Papon has just ended. The aged and infirm former French administrator was convicted of complicity in the Nazis' crimes against humanity for having turned French Jews and others over to the Gestapo, but acquitted of having committed war crimes himself.

This split verdict and the 10-year sentence given Mr. Papon represent a compromise not only on Mr. Papon — who claimed only to have been following orders and to have helped the French Resistance even as he helped the Nazis — but also on France's dualistic legacy from the war.

Mr. Papon's claim of double duty echoed the experiences of the late François Mitterrand, who fought the German invasion in 1940, escaped from a prisoner of war camp and worked for the collaborationist Vichy regime when the

Nazis were riding high. He then became a major figure in the Resistance as the tide turned and was elected president in 1981. In all of these stages, Mr. Mitterrand incarnated France at the time.

France was victim, prisoner, accomplice and Resistance fighter at different times and in different proportions. This is what made Charles de Gaulle's ideology of grandeur so necessary in post-war French reconstruction. A master political psychologist, de Gaulle understood he needed to spotlight and create heroics that his people had by and large not performed.

The Gaullist strategy, much ridiculed by resentful Americans, worked brilliantly for 40 years. But by sublimating and repressing the collaborationist side of France's wartime identity, the general created a time bomb that French society hears ticking very loudly now, as it confronts a rise in anti-Semitism and of extreme right-wing nationalism.

The belated prosecution of Mr. Papon and the vigorous political debate about extremism that President Jacques Chirac and others are demanding signal that France is now dealing more directly with its unfinished business from World War II than it has in the recent past. This is a development to be encouraged and, where needed, emulated by others.

The Washington Post

Deir Yassin and the Challenge That Israel Faces Today

By Marc H. Ellis

CROTON ON HUDSON, New York — Fifty years ago, in the midst of Israel's struggle to be born as a nation-state, a terrible event occurred.

On April 9, 1948, Deir Yassin, a village of some 700 Arabs on the outskirts of Jerusalem, was attacked by the Haganah, the official Jewish army, and by the Jewish irregular groups Irgun and Lehi.

These irregular organizations contributed much to the state. In their leadership were two future prime ministers, Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Shamir.

What happened at Deir Yassin is well known, and though the number of dead is disputed — it ranges from 100 to 250 — the essential details have been confirmed by Palestinian and Jewish historians: Arab noncombatants were massacred by the Irgun and Lehi.

This massacre resounded throughout Palestine, and coupled with other massacres in other villages, it spread panic

among the Palestinian Arabs, leading hundreds of thousands of them to flee.

In a letter to David Ben-Gurion protesting plans to resettle the village with Jews after the war, Martin Buber — one of the most prominent Jewish intellectual and religious figures of his time — and several others wrote that the massacre at Deir Yassin had become "infamous" throughout the world.

"In Deir Yassin hundreds of innocent men, women and children were massacred. Let the village of Deir Yassin remain uninhabited for the time being, and let its desolation be a terrible and tragic symbol of war, and a warning to our people that no practical military needs may ever justify such acts of murder."

Now, as Israel celebrates 50 years of Jewish statehood, what are Jews to do with this event, which signaled then and re-

resents now the catastrophe within Palestinian history? What are we to do with Deir Yassin, the shadow side of Israel's birth?

For most Jews this event is forgotten or repressed, folded into the larger Jewish drama of the Holocaust and survival and safety in the state of Israel.

For some, the tragedy of the Holocaust is so huge that time spent thinking about this smaller event, which took place in the midst of a war in which terrorism was perpetrated by both sides, is unwarranted.

But perhaps this tragedy has been buried in Jewish consciousness for a more significant reason.

Could the recognition that the Palestinians have experienced a tragedy not unlike tragedies in Jewish history — this time at the hands of Jews — call Jews' commitment to Israel into question?

Perhaps this is why Ben-Gurion never responded to Buber's letter and why the Jewish leadership, after initially admitting to the massacre at Deir Yassin and expressing regret, has been silent over the last decades.

Buber never felt that his mourning over Deir Yassin meant a betrayal of Israel. For him, Deir Yassin was a call to recognize the evils of war, the limitations of statehood and the possibility, indeed the necessity, of confession and reconciliation with those who had been wronged in the creation of Israel.

Buber was a Zionist whose voice has been lost in the uproar of the competing parties and factions that make up Israel's political and religious scene today.

Unlike today's arguments over percentages of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied West Bank, Buber had a vision of a united Palestine in which Jews and Arabs would live side by

side, affirming their own particularity and involved in a joint development of the Holy Land.

Could this be our vision today?

Forty years ago, Buber concluded his reflections on Deir Yassin with these words: "The time will come when it will be possible to conceive of some act in which Yassin, an act which will symbolize our people's desire for justice and brotherhood with the Arab people."

On the 50th anniversary of Deir Yassin, can we Jews recognize that the only act that can symbolize that desire is a full recognition of the Palestinians' equality as a people and a nation? Buber's vision is a challenge.

The writer, a Jewish theologian, has been a senior fellow at the Center for the Study of World Religions and a visiting scholar at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University. He contributed this comment to the Herald Tribune.

U.S. Must Come Clean on Central America Atrocities

By Thomas Buergenthal

WASHINGTON — Seventeen years after the crime, four Salvadoran national guardsmen convicted of murdering three American nuns and a church lay worker in 1980 have publicly confessed for the first time that they had acted on "orders from above."

The United Nations Truth Commission for El Salvador had reached the same finding in 1993, concluding that high Salvadoran officers, including the defense minister and the commander of the National Guard at the time, were involved in covering up the crime.

The four guardsmen were convicted of murder in 1984 and have been in a Salvadoran prison ever since. But the former defense minister, General José Guillermo García, and the former National Guard

commander, Colonel Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova, are living safely in Florida, according to published reports.

Although it remains to be proved who actually authorized the order to execute the nuns, who were abducted, raped and shot on Dec. 2, 1980, information about the two officers' role in the cover-up was readily available to anyone interested in learning the truth, including American officials who purported to investigate the murders.

The investigations carried out by the United States of this case and of other military-related atrocities in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala were flawed. And the American government continues to this day to resist a full accounting

of the brutal crimes committed in Central America during the Cold War.

As a rule, the very people responsible for the crimes were either in the pay of our U.S. intelligence services or they were viewed as invaluable allies in the struggle against Communist subversion. That they were also frequently thugs and murderers mattered little during those years.

Only two weeks after the nuns were murdered, then-UN Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick was quoted as saying: "I don't think the government [of El Salvador] was responsible. The nuns were not just nuns; they were political activists. We ought to be a little more clear-cut about this than we usually

are. They were political activists on behalf of the Frente [guerrilla movement], and somebody who is using violence to oppose the Frente killed them."

Half a year later, then-Secretary of State Alexander Haig suggested that the nuns may have been killed trying to run a roadblock. After reading these declarations, the Salvadoran authorities could be forgiven for believing that the United States did not want to know the truth.

The Cold War is over, but the terrible violations of human rights that were committed by both sides in Central America remain to be fully investigated. That may be the only justice the many innocent victims and their families will ever get.

Guatemala and Honduras have embarked on serious investigations.

Despite promised cooperation, the United States has turned over very little information to the Central Americans. Important files were also withheld from the Truth Commission for El Salvador in 1992 and 1993.

American officials always give the same excuses: the need to protect sources and intelligence-gathering methods. But my own experience in trying to obtain information for the Truth Commission convinced me that the real reasons that officials deny access have little to do with national security.

The predominant concern of the intelligence agencies tends

to be the desire to cover up their own incompetence or to protect themselves against charges that they violated official U.S. policies by participating in or not reporting human rights abuses by their foreign counterparts. Since these agencies determine for themselves what information should be disclosed, they reveal little that will embarrass them.

It is high time for the United States to establish an independent commission to review the documents relating to the conflicts in Central America and to declassify all information that can be made public without endangering legitimate security interests. A genuine democracy has nothing to fear from the truth.

Some victims of the Central American conflicts of the late 1970s and '80s are now being expelled from the United States while many of those responsible for the violations of human rights enjoy our hospitality.

The fact that the two Salvadoran officers were granted residency status in the United States suggests that, at the very least, we Americans should be more careful in judging who is an "undesirable alien."

The writer, a professor of international law at George Washington University, was a member of the United Nations Truth Commission for El Salvador. He contributed this comment to the New York Times.

Economic Crisis Hits Asia's Press

By Tom Plate

LOS ANGELES — It is hard to imagine that with even fewer news media outlets than Asia now has, the region would somehow be better off. But this looks to be exactly Asia's fate as the economic crisis takes its gruesome toll.

One major condition of the \$57 billion Korean bailout by the International Monetary Fund requires conglomerates to pull the plug on loss-making subsidiaries. In general, that is not a bad idea.

But those who value media diversity will now worry because the across-the-board IMF rule is suffocating Asian newspapers, especially the conglomerate-subsidized variety.

Two Korean newspapers owned by chaebols, or industrial conglomerates, that once were more interested in clout than profit are now in deep trouble. It is hardly the IMF's fault that the Asian newspaper business is in serious difficulty these days. The region's media moguls, who like many of their colleagues in other businesses, abandoned common sense in the wildly overextended years of 1992 to 1997 are to blame, too.

In Indonesia, rising newspaper prices and a falling currency have driven the majority of its more than 250 newspapers and magazines — employing more than 5,500 journalists and many countless thousands of others — perilously close to, or actually into, the red.

In Thailand, one-third of the country's news media people are now out of jobs, and a dozen

mostly small newspapers have closed shop since that brutal balt-battering month of July 1997. Now, the major dailies are having a hard time staying afloat, as advertisers slash media budgets and imported newsprint costs more by the month.

Even the rowdily democratic Philippines press, with eight top national dailies and almost two dozen tabloids, is starting to feel the crunch: advertising revenues have nose-dived by 50 percent this year.

The one bright spot in the news media scene, says Ellen Tordesillas, columnist for the Manila newspaper *Malaya*, is that financial coverage has become more aggressive.

Some of the powers that be, including Indonesia's President Suharto, are happy being watched by fewer reporters. Mr. Suharto actually blames the news media for starting the economic crisis by reporting on it.

In reality, say Western media-rating institutions like the U.S.-based Freedom House, Asia's news media are scarcely all that pugnacious, particularly in Indonesia. Indeed, the thought arises that a truly independent press might have been able to spare the country and the people Mr. Suharto claims so much to love had it not been prevented from doing its full job.

Lee Hyun Nak, a director at the Korean newspaper *Dong-A Ilbo*, put it well about his nation's far more independent media:

"The Korean press must share the responsibility. The media failed to adequately warn economic decision-makers and the public that their reckless (business and government) practices could lead to catastrophe."

Back in October, even before the full dimensions of the crisis were plain, distinguished Asian journalists aired exactly that concern at the Asia-Pacific Journalists' conference in Tokyo, organized annually by Japan's Foreign Press Center.

There, editors and reporters from throughout the region lamented their culture's debilitating preference for secrecy and their business community's characteristic dependency on it. To be sure, press freedom does not always produce perfect results. America was swept into the savings and loan debacle of the 1980s with scarcely any warning from its well-heeled and well-equipped news media. India has a terrible economy and gaping corruption; it also has a press that is as free as anyone's.

But an alert and aggressive press is, on the whole, an essential hedge against the inherent capacity of government, not to mention the political and business establishment, to slouch toward sloth and stupidity. Any press decline is almost always a symptom of serious underlying problems.

It is hard to see how Asia can get better fast if its press is going south fast. Only the tyrants can be happy now.

Los Angeles Times Syndicate

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1898: Dervishes Lose

PARIS — [The Herald says in an Editorial:] The Sirdar's forces yesterday [April 8] gained a complete victory over the Dervishes at Dakhla and the Emir Mahmoud was taken prisoner. There seems little doubt now that the reign of terror in the Sudan is virtually at an end. In due course the Egyptian troops will retake Khartoum and the long-promised reconquest of the Sudan will be an accomplished fact. Yesterday's battle was an important step towards the opening up of Central Africa to trade and a degree of civilization.

1923: Obesity Chair

LONDON — One of the most interesting features at the Nursing Exhibition at Westminster is the "Bergonie Chair" for reducing obesity. Physicians assert this chair takes off superfluous flesh by making the muscles work. An intermittent electric current is sent through the body as the patient reclines in the chair. The current stimulates the muscles to a remarkable degree, and fat disappears at a corresponding rate.

1948: Countering Reds

WASHINGTON — The State Department is studying a project for establishment of a Western "counter-Cominform" to fight the spread of Communism in Europe. John Foster Dulles, Republican foreign policy expert, outlined the plan. The "counter-Cominform" would operate in many of the fields of the "cold war." These would include detection of subversive activities, espionage, counter-propaganda and assistance to democratic movements, including organization of underground movements in nations already controlled by Communists.

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TribTech

Are 'Smart' Cards Getting Too Wise to Get Off the Drawing Board?

By Gina Rarick
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Almost no one disputes the potential of "smart" cards. The ubiquitous plastic cards embedded with foil-covered computer chips are being used for everything from pay phones to parking meters, from vending machines to mobile phones.

Companies are pouring money into developing still more applications for the technology, which allows a semiconductor chip as powerful as those in early personal computers to work on a plastic card. But have chip cards become a victim of their own success?

Projects to introduce smart cards for various uses have become entangled in plans for different parties to put their applications on a unified card, rather than burden the consumer with a different piece of plastic for each use. The result has been a series of promising pilot programs but few large-scale working applications for even a single-purpose card. Cards with multiple uses are, for the most part, still on the drawing board.

SGS Thomson Microelectronics, which supplies about 40 percent of the chips used in smart cards worldwide, predicts that the overall market for such chips will grow to \$1.4 billion in 2000 from \$513 million last year.

The most sophisticated chips being used in smart cards today are 8-bit microprocessors that contain 64 kilobytes of memory — comparable to the brains of the dual-floppy-disk, second-generation personal computers.

But over the next two years, the top-of-the-line smart card will contain a 32-bit processor with as much as 1 megabyte of memory, said Jean-Paul Thomasson, marketing director of SGS Thomson's smart cards division. That means a smart card will have the power of a personal computer with an Intel 386 chip.

That puts the technology far ahead of the applications developed for it. "We are designing such a platform to be more flexible and more adaptable — basically, to be able to accept multiapplication technology," Mr. Thomasson said.

"If everyone cooperates, multi-application technology will start very quickly," he said.

Today, however, even single-purpose cards can fail. In the United States, for example, Visa with great fanfare introduced an "electronic purse," or card that stores cash for small purchases, during the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

But after issuing more than 1.5 million of the cards, called Visa Cash, the credit-card company backed away from the

program, deciding that customers were not interested in a card that served only as a substitute for change and small bills.

Another problem for Visa Cash was the lack of "infrastructure." Customers found that many retailers were not set up to accept the new cards, and that limitation soured people on the idea.

"I really feel that when we break through with the issuance of multipurpose cards, that's the way it will go," said Edmund Jensen, president and chief executive of Visa International Inc.

Consumers, meanwhile, have no choice but to sit back and wait until their bank, cable-television company or local subway system gets with the program.

In France, the introduction of a chip card to pay bus and subway fares is being delayed because banks want to add an electronic-purse function to it. A national health card is having trouble getting off the ground because developers are finding more and more functions to include on the card, said Marc Lassus, chief executive of Gemplus, the French-based company that is the world's biggest maker of chip cards.

"The French have to build a Concorde when a *deux-chevaux* will do," Mr. Lassus said.

Pilot programs using smart cards for transit, which many in the industry see as one of the most effective uses for the

cards, are in place in several cities around the world, from Paris to Sydney to Hong Kong to New York. But only Seoul uses smart cards for its entire urban transport system.

"Transport cards are a little bit of wishful thinking: we have been talking about it for six years," said Roland Moreno, who invented the smart-card concept more than 20 years ago and now heads Groupe Innovatron, an industry consultant in Paris. "Except for Seoul, there is no real-life application."

Despite calls for a smart "super-card" that can do it all, projects that have focused on a single application have been the most successful. In France, for example, France Telecom has been converting coin-operated pay phones to card phones since 1985. The company has sold 850 million disposable "smart" phone cards since then, including 115 million last year alone.

All of the 28 million Visa and Europay bank cards issued in France carry a computer chip that is activated by a secret code. The cards are accepted for a much wider range of purchases than in the United States, where credit cards are, for the most part, still run through magnetic-strip readers and require the user's signature.

In France, a signature is not nec-

essary, and the cards are accepted virtually everywhere, from fast-food restaurants and grocery stores to movie theaters, gas stations and parking lots. Using personal identification codes rather than signatures has cut credit-card fraud to 0.023 percent of all transactions last year from 0.1 percent in 1990, according to Cartes Bancaires, the French banking organization.

The market for chip-cards for mobile phones also is exploding. Phones using digital GSM systems come with a smart card that includes all of the user's preferences such as memory dialing and message functions. Because the chip is in the card rather than the phone, a caller can use any phone in any country that uses the GSM standard, just by putting the programmed chip into the phone.

SITES

Related sites on the Internet: Basic information about smart cards and Visa's programs can be found at: www.visa.com/cgi-bin/veintichipi/main.html

Card Technology Magazine is at: cardtech.faulknergray.com. Gemplus's home page is at: www.gemplus.com

Q & A / Edmund Jensen, President of Visa

Large Retailers May Spur Revolution in Chip Cards

Edmund Jensen, president and chief executive of Visa International Inc., is retiring in December after a four-year tenure that saw Visa expand into chip-card technology. He recently discussed the future of smart cards with Gina Rarick of the International Herald Tribune.

Q: Is Visa convinced that a multiple-application smart card, combining an electronic purse, charge-card capabilities and other uses, is the wave of the future?

A: We're convinced that the "chip-technology-on-a-card-wave" is the right term to use. We're going to see that tide moving very rapidly in different parts of the world in the next five years. I doubt that money can be made on the electronic purse or stored-value function.

We think of the stored-value function in terms of cash on a card. But stored value also can be loyalty points. Large retailers in the world are going to be the driving force of moving to multiple functions on a card, simply to provide value to the customers.

Q: How seriously does Visa take competition from other electronic-purse developers such as Mondex, which is allied with MasterCard, and Proton, which is allied with American Express?

A: I think competition between technologies on the card is ultimately not where the game is going to be. Competition will be on the basis of the applications and the business propositions.

People talk about the technology, but five years from now the technology will be different. Cards will be interoperable. The real competition is in the applications of that technology.

Q: How much potential for chip cards do you see in Internet commerce?

A: I think it will be three to five years before smart cards will be used on the Internet.

There is such a wide potential there, selling goods and services, but customers must have a willingness to accept that value. Over the next few years, the Internet will become much faster and easier to use. Speed, availability of product and catalogs on-line are going to cause growth in the next five years probably faster than what a lot of cynics are projecting.

The thing that seems to frighten consumers is the security. But we are installing the kind of security that's required. Down the road, the security will be easier and easier. We believe security needs to be on both ends of transaction. We think that's the right way to go. When that happens, customers' confidence will really grow.

Q: The United States is lagging the world in smart-card use. Why is that, and where do you see the most potential for smart-card development worldwide?

A: The U.S. is lagging, but not because of the consumer. It's lagging because of the infrastructure. There is a magstrip (magnetic strip) infrastructure in place, and it is working just fine.

Americans rely on what works. Asian markets will grow in this technology ahead of the U.S. Singapore is quite advanced — they had the first SET ("secure electronic transaction" standard) transaction. China is very interested in expanding in payment cards. There is no magstrip infrastructure to overcome in these countries.

In the U.K., the smart card is being introduced purely on the justification of fraud reduction.

Every country is different. In Russia, for example, telecommunications infrastructure doesn't support on-line transactions. So there is a card with a line of credit on it. It transfers value to a merchant's card, and then the merchant, at the end of the day, deposits funds from cards. It is completely off-line, except for the ability to make deposits at the end of the day.

There's a very large population in many countries that is "unbanked." With a chip card, these people can buy a card loaded with cash and use it without an account. In South Africa, where there is a large unbanked population, chip cards are popular.

Q: You have said that Visa's competition is cash. How do you stack up against this strong competition?

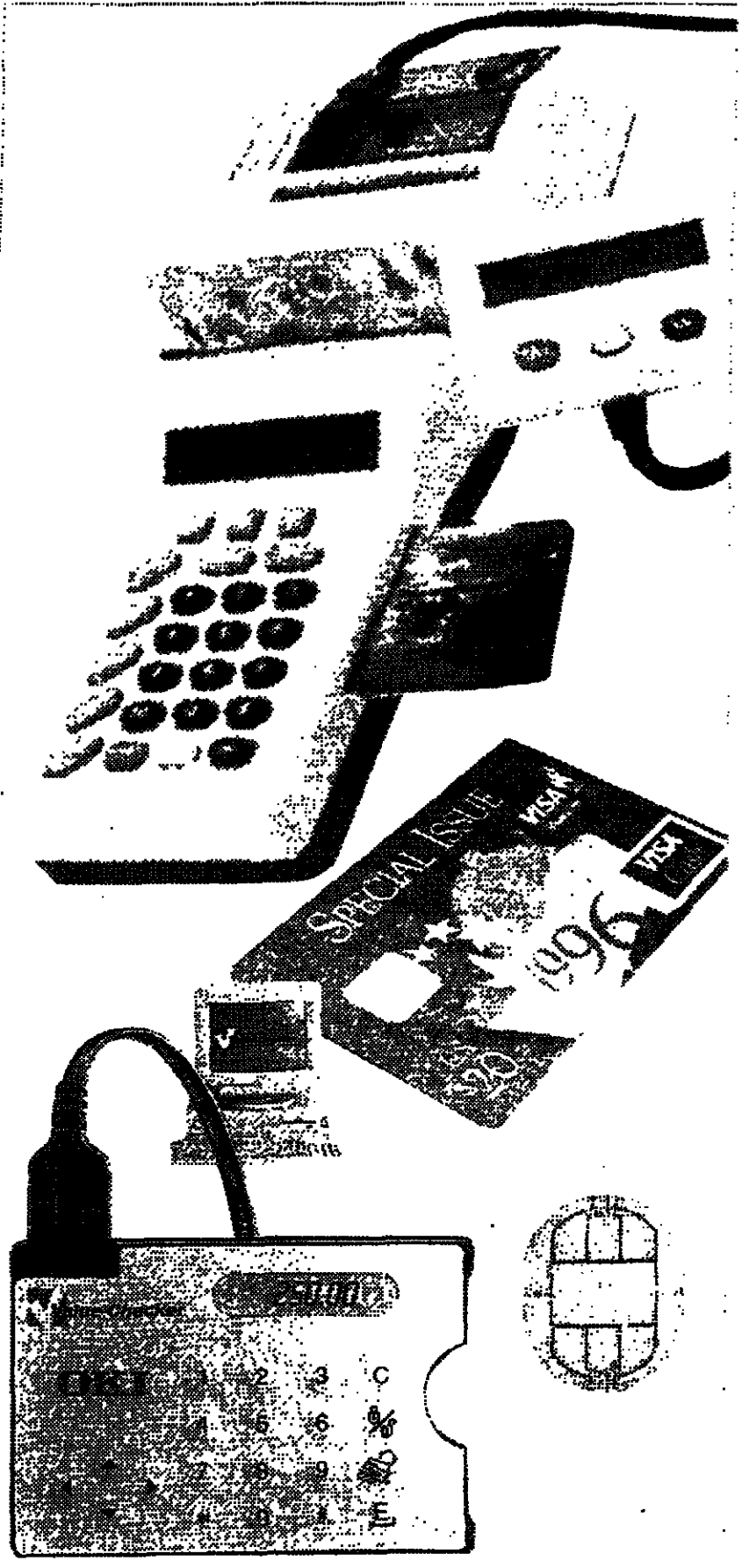
A: We'll never get to a 100 percent cashless society. Today, cards are used for a trillion dollars a year in purchases and cash advances from ATM machines. That's about 7 percent of all personal consumption spending — it's relatively small. When we start talking about purchases on the Internet, it's going to be a long time before 10 percent of those purchases are Visa-card purchases.

But if you take a look at the growth in the past four or five years, you see unbelievable demand on the part of the consumer to use cards for payments rather than cash.

Visa doubles in size every three to five years, and that will continue. There's a whole bunch of people who don't have cards and haven't even thought about cards. We have a five-year objective to get to 15 percent of all personal consumption spending.



Edmund Jensen, president of Visa.



A sampling of the current state-of-the-art cards, chips and accessories.

TECHNOLOGY INDEX

A glance at technology stock indexes around the world				
North America	Tuesday close	% change previous week	% change year to date	
Pacific Stock Exchange	338.37	-2.20	+16.45	
Technology				
Standard & Poor's Technology Composite	816.66	-2.58	+16.68	
Europe				
Morgan Stanley Eurotec	553.22	-0.25	+43.62	
Asia				
Topix Electric	1720.71	-0.88	+4.66	

Source: Morgan Stanley, Bloomberg News

For technology articles from the past week, see the Technology Index on the IHT's World Wide Web site at <http://www.ihnt.com>. Articles include:

- It's an E-Mail — It's a Letter, April 3
- Intel Affirms Malaysia Plans, April 3
- Sony Corp. to Meet Profit Forecast but Sees Difficult Year, April 3
- Foothold in Brazil for Telecom Italia, April 4-5
- Euro-Tech: Scarcity and Value, April 6
- Microsoft's Co-Founder Plans a Cable Buy, April 7
- National Semiconductor Defies Intel With "PC-on-a-Chip", April 7
- Murdoch Slams Europe's State TV Networks, April 7
- Face It: No Life on Mars, April 8
- Xerox to Cut 9,000 Jobs in Drive to Go Digital, April 8
- Motorola Cuts Short Stock's Record Run, April 8
- Born Rejects Telekom Fee Policy, April 8

To reach TribTech editors or to comment on IHT technology coverage, send e-mail to tribtech@ihnt.com.

ALT / Commentary

Peter Nero's New Record: Most Electronic Gizmos

By Stephen C. Miller
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — I spent a couple of hours with Peter Nero, one of the world's finest musicians, but we didn't talk about music. Instead, we discussed IRQ conflicts with PC cards and laptop docking stations, orphaned PDs and the lack of standards for cartridges used by external storage devices.

We played one-upmanship on technical support horror stories. He won.

Mr. Nero's musical credentials are widely known. He has won a couple of Grammy Awards and recorded 60 albums; his jazz trio plays more than 100 concerts and club dates a year; and he is musical director of the Philadelphia Pops orchestra and co-musical director of the Florida Philharmonic.

Not as well known is that Mr. Nero has equally solid credentials as a computer whiz. While he plays down his bona fides, the record speaks for itself. He designed an electronic baseball game in 1949 while still in high school. He taught himself BASIC programming on a Tandy TRS 80 and wrote a number of programs to help run his business, several of which, updated and modified, he still uses. He can still get around a hard-wired hotel phone system to dial out with a modem.

And — the ultimate sign of geek chic — he has multiple e-mail addresses.

I thought that Mr. Nero, who spends most of his life on the road, would have some tips for those of us who travel with technology. Several years ago, I interviewed him for a story on the similarities between writing music and writing computer programs. He told me then that he had written a program for his Radio Shack Model 100 to keep track of his frequent-flyer miles. "The airlines never seemed to credit me with the correct mileage," he said.

I had heard over the years that Mr. Nero was a tech-toy junkie. "He's never seen an electronic gadget he didn't like," said Ed Juge, former marketing and communications director at Tandy Corp. In the contest of he-who-has-the-most-toys, Mr. Nero is the hands-down champ among those who travel with technology. The man is a traveling electronics store.

While he was in New York for the recent Grammy Awards ceremony, I dropped by Mr. Nero's hotel room to see what he was carrying with him on a trip from Philadelphia.

He unpacked a large suitcase full of stuff, which covered the dining room table. And this was just the stuff that he carried on a short trip. He left one of the portable printers in his office in Florida. Why all these gadgets? "Because they do something useful for me," he said.

The traditional road warrior tools are obvious: a laptop computer, a cell phone and even an electronic organizer — but a lightning detector? "I like to know what the weather is going to be when I'm working," he said.



Peter Nero and his high-tech toys.

It makes sense when you consider that he often gives concerts outdoors.

A dual-time digital alarm clock? "I've been looking for this one for a long time," he said. "With a digital watch or an organizer, you can change the display time for another time zone, but all the appointments are in the starting time zone. This one automatically adjusts the alarms for the current time zone and then back again."

A device to measure air pressure? "It's an old pilot's trick. If you have a plane load of unruly passengers, you can adjust the cabin pressure and put some of them to sleep. When I get sleepy on a plane, I want to know if it's me or has the pilot adjusted the cabin pressure."

"It's like taking someone from sea level to Denver. It's perfectly safe, but unless you're used to the altitude, you're not likely to feel like running a marathon."

Mr. Nero, like the rest of us, gets frustrated with the complexity of computing and the deficiencies of technical support. He found that when he inserted his laptop into its port replicator, the PC cards didn't work. "I checked the Device Manager and found that there was a conflict but nothing I did could resolve it," he said. After calling the company that produced the operating system, the company that manufactured the laptop and both companies that manufactured the PC cards, he got no answer that worked.

"I finally decided to start from scratch. I turned off the computer, popped out the cards and rebooted. Then I inserted each card and the system recognized them and assigned the correct IRQ," he said. He stumbled on the solution on his own.

"None of the people I called knew this simple solution," he said. Despite these kinds of setbacks, Mr. Nero keeps looking for the next gadget or piece of software that will make his life interesting. He was planning a shopping trip to the computer store near his hotel to buy a new e-mail program.

Stephen C. Miller is a New York Times columnist.

BRIEFLY

• **A QUESTION OF IMAGE:** Microsoft Corp.'s bitter legal clash with the Justice Department has begun to hurt the software publisher's reputation, according to a research organization that tracks brand recognition of technology companies.

Techtel Corp. of Emeryville, California, has found that negative opinion about Microsoft has increased measurably among the 900 people who serve as a panel of respondents surveyed each quarter. The panelists are chosen to represent a broad range of company sizes, business users and consumer households.

The Techtel survey indicates that the proportion of those holding positive opinions about Microsoft among general business users fell almost 10 percentage points in 1997, the first significant drop for the company since the survey began in 1992. By the end of last year, only 70 percent of the business users on the panel held a positive opinion of Microsoft's brand name.

Positive opinion among consumers, meanwhile, fell five percentage points in the last quarter of 1997, to 67 percent of the consumer panelists. It was during that quarter that Microsoft entered a period of sustained controversy after the Justice Department filed an antitrust suit against the company's marketing practices with its Explorer Web-navigation software.

Microsoft's chief operating officer, Bob Herbold, said that the company, which has carefully watched its own customer-polling data in recent months, had found no measurable decline in its reputation among consumers.

• **TACKLING EU JOBLESS:** The European Commission urged European Union countries last week to look more seriously at their unemployment problems as a way to ease their unemployment problems.

In a report, the commission called on the 15 EU members to overhaul tax, regulatory and

accountancy rules to make it easier and more attractive for start-up companies, particularly in high-tech sectors, to raise funds and go public.

Developing risk capital in the EU, leading toward the development of pan-European risk capital markets, is essential for major job creation in the EU, the commission said.

About 18 million people, or 10.5 percent of the EU's working population, are unemployed, more than double the jobless rate in the United States or Japan. The 5,500 companies listed on the U.S. Nasdaq market employ about 9 million people, the commission report said.

• **A CORE CHANGE:** The Apple Business Consortium has changed its name to the Technology Business Alliance to reflect a new focus on all types of computers and software for busi-

ness and education, not just Apple Computer Inc. products. The group, founded in 1991, will remain an independent, not-for-profit alliance based in Campbell, California, for software and hardware developers and manufacturers, resellers, consultants and end-users.

(Bloomberg)

• **OPEN WINDOWS:** Windows CE, a Microsoft Corp. operating system that gives computer intelligence to consumer electronics products, is gaining momentum.

Sony Corp. and Microsoft announced an agreement Tuesday to cross-license one another's technology and work closely to fuse Windows CE with Sony's audio and visual technology standards. Nobuyuki Idei, the Sony president, said, "The time has come for the PC industry and the audio-visual industry to shake hands." The companies want home elec-

tronics equipment such as digital televisions, videocassette recorders and personal computers to be able to ship data among one another. Windows CE, a close cousin of Windows 95 and Windows NT, has been under development for almost four years.

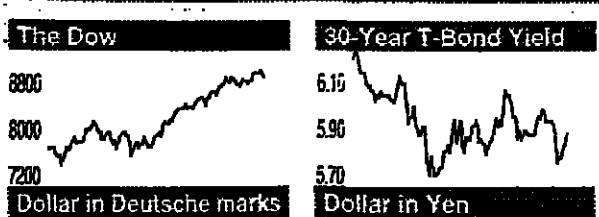
(WP)

• **A HACKING STAR IS BORN:** Ehud Tenenbaum, the Israeli teenager who hacked into the Pentagon's computer system, was featured Tuesday in a full-page computer ad in the Yediot Achronot newspaper. The 18-year-old gazes out at the reader, chin on hand, next to the slogan: "To go far, you need the best equipment." The ad is for Newron computers, made by the Israeli company EIM. Mr. Tenenbaum, who used the name "The Analyzer" on the Internet, is being investigated by the Israeli police for his cyber-assault on the Pentagon's and other computer systems. He has not been charged. The FBI has said he confessed to the intrusions.

(AP)

THE AMERICAS

Investor's America



Exchange	Index	Wednesday Prev.	% Change
U.S.	The Dow	8891.48	-0.73
U.S.	S&P 500	1101.64	-0.71
U.S.	S&P 100	528.36	-0.80
U.S.	NYSE Composite	578.68	-0.70
U.S.	Nasdaq Composite	1807.00	+0.46
U.S.	AMEX Composite	737.50	+0.25
Toronto	TSE Index	7571.10	-0.11
Sao Paulo	Bovespa	11974.77	+1.00
Mexico City	Bolsa	4821.15	+1.21
Buenos Aires	Merval	660.63	+0.31
Santiago	IPSA General	4783.65	-0.70
Caracas	Capital General	7280.50	-0.76

Very briefly:

- General Electric Co.'s profit rose 13 percent in the first quarter from a year earlier, driven by strong performances in its financial-services and equipment businesses. Earnings were \$1.89 billion, or 57 cents a diluted share. Revenue rose 12 percent, to \$22.63 billion.
- Dow Jones & Co.'s first-quarter earnings rose nearly 37 percent, to \$34.7 million, as sales rose to \$621.5 million from \$606 million. The profit increase was mainly caused by gains on sales of its interest in a television station and a magazine.
- Low Lieberman, a New York brokerage concern, reached a \$1.75 million settlement of U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission charges that the firm had harassed at least 18 female and minority-group workers.
- General Electric Co.'s first-quarter earnings rose 13 percent, to \$1.89 billion, led by its aircraft-engine and medical-systems units. Revenue rose 12 percent, to \$22.63 billion.
- UAL Corp.'s United Airlines said its passenger load factor fell to 70.6 percent in March from 74 percent a year earlier, with soft traffic continuing in the Asia-Pacific region.
- E*Trade Group Inc.'s second-quarter earnings doubled to \$6.1 million as the Internet-based brokerage handled 83 percent more transactions than in the year-earlier quarter.
- The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission announced that its general counsel, Richard Walker, would become the agency's enforcement director. Mr. Walker, 47, will succeed William McLucas, who is leaving the SEC after eight years as enforcement chief.
- Charles Schwab Corp. said its brokerage unit's president and chief operating officer, Timothy McCarthy, had resigned, just six months after being named to head the division. The company has not named a successor.
- DDI Corp. of Japan and Cia. Suzano de Papel & Celulose of Brazil are leading a group that is to pay the Brazilian government more than 913 million reais (\$803 million) for a mobile-telephone license.

INTERNATIONAL FUTURES

April 8, 1998

High Low Latest Chge Opnt

High Low Latest Chge Opnt

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 Mar 56 16.71 16.71 16.71 +1.14 16.71
 May 56 16.75 16.75 16.75

EUROPE

In the Cloud Over Asia,
Silver Lining in Europe
OECD Says Inflation Outlook ImprovesBy Carl Gewirtz
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — For the United States and Western Europe, the cloud hanging over much of Asia is lined with silver.

That is the latest assessment on the fallout from the Asian crisis published Wednesday in the semiannual Economic Outlook of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The report forecasts a soft landing for the U.S. economy — a benign slowdown this year and in 1999 from a torrid pace that had been looking worrisome — and a self-sustaining recovery in Europe creating more jobs than in any year since 1990.

But for the countries at the center of the crisis, the outlook is somber: economic contraction in Indonesia and Thailand, and marked slowdowns in China, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore.

Japan, facing severe domestic problems that have been exacerbated by the regional turmoil, "is on the edge of recession." In South Korea, a drop in domestic demand of almost 10 percent is expected to push the economy into a small recession despite a huge increase in exports.

The slowdown in Asia is dampening commodity prices, including oil prices, and while this is good news for most countries because it re-

strains inflation and lowers long-term interest rates, it is bad news for the commodity producers — in particular Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Britain, Mexico and Norway.

World trade overall will expand by only 7 percent this year and next compared with growth of nearly 10 percent before the crisis, the OECD said. The East Asian countries in crisis and South Korea will increase their current-account surpluses by an estimated \$74 billion over this year and next, it said.

This shift will largely be at the expense of the United States, whose deficit this year is expected to more than double. Western Europe will be affected to a smaller degree.

Japan, the report said, is "unlikely to contribute to adjustment in the crisis countries," and itself will be running large current-account surpluses amounting to some \$53 billion over the two years. The report urged early and substantial macroeconomic stimulus for Japan.

The OECD's chief economist, Ignazio Visco, said the stimulus "should be two-thirds tax cuts and one-third additional spending."

The tax cuts should involve reforms of the tax system and be seen to be permanent, the OECD said. It also urged Japan to continue structural reforms aimed at deregulating the economy and to take comprehensive action to resolve the nation's banking problems.



Juergen Schrempf, left, chairman of Daimler-Benz, showing the company's share price on a handheld electronic device at a press conference with Manfred Grieb, chief financial officer.

Daimler Sales Augur a Rosy '98

Compiled by The Staff From Reuters

STUTTGART — Daimler-Benz AG, Germany's largest industrial company, said Wednesday that it expected earnings to rise this year after first-quarter sales surged 22 percent, to 31.6 billion Deutsche marks (\$17.2 billion).

The company also took the unusual step of publishing sales forecasts through 2000 for each of its five main units. The move marked an effort to be more open and alter corporate Germany's reputation for poor investor relations. Daimler aims to improve its standing among international investors, especially in the United States, where reporting standards are more demanding than in Germany.

"Companies have to rethink"

their investor-relations policy," said Jacques Abramovitz at Westdeutsche Kapitalanlagegesellschaft mbH in Dusseldorf. "Investors are not just looking at this year but the next year and the year after that."

Few companies are inclined to publicly set specific targets so far into the future because changes in market conditions can lead to a need for embarrassing downward revisions.

Daimler said first-quarter sales were buoyed by 64 percent growth in U.S. sales of Mercedes vehicles, especially the M-class.

Orders at Daimler-Benz Aerospace AG almost tripled from a year earlier, to 6.7 billion DM, because of the Eurofighter defense

project and a large Airbus order in Latin America.

Daimler said it expected overall annual sales to rise 29 percent by 2000, to 160 billion DM, and to double to 250 billion DM in the next 10 years. Most of the growth is expected to come from the Mercedes unit, where unit sales are forecast to rise 70 percent, to 1.2 million units a year.

German companies have a reputation for putting earnings into hidden reserves in good years to avoid paying high corporate taxes.

Daimler was the first German company to convert its accounting standards to the more open U.S. standard, known as generally accepted accounting principles, in 1993. (Bloomberg, AP)

Investor's Europe

Frankfurt DAX	London FTSE 100 index	Paris CAC 40
5400	6200	4200
5050	5900	3900
4700	5600	3600
4350	5300	3300
4000	5000	3000
3650	4700	2700
1997	1997	1997
1998	1998	1998
1999	1999	1999
2000	2000	2000
2001	2001	2001
2002	2002	2002
2003	2003	2003
2004	2004	2004
2005	2005	2005
2006	2006	2006
2007	2007	2007
2008	2008	2008
2009	2009	2009
2010	2010	2010
2011	2011	2011
2012	2012	2012
2013	2013	2013
2014	2014	2014
2015	2015	2015
2016	2016	2016
2017	2017	2017
2018	2018	2018
2019	2019	2019
2020	2020	2020

Source: Reuters

Very briefly:

• Cie. des Machines Bull has changed its name to become simply Bull. Guy de Panafieu, chairman of the French computer and software company, said he aimed to increase net profit as a percentage of sales by one percentage point each year, to at least 5 percent in 2000. Sales are expected to rise to 40 billion francs (\$6.5 billion) in 2002, from 24.6 billion francs in 1997.

• L'Oréal SA, the world's biggest cosmetics maker, predicted it would maintain double-digit profit and sales gains as it developed new products and benefits from booming demand in emerging markets. The company's 1997 profit before capital gains and losses rose 13 percent, to 4.21 billion French francs, as sales rose 14.5 percent, to 69.1 billion francs.

• Great Universal Stores PLC, Britain's largest catalog retailer, increased its cash offer for Argos PLC, a retail chain, to £1.9 billion (\$3.2 billion) from £1.6 billion, but Argos immediately rejected the offer as "totally inadequate."

• Enic PLC, a British investment company, plans to buy 80 percent of 10 Warner Bros. Studio stores in Britain for £29.6 million as part of a venture between the companies. Enic will also finance, design and operate Warner Bros. restaurants throughout the world.

• Barclays Bank PLC, Deutsche Bank AG and other leading world banks have formed a coalition to prevent the so-called millennium computer bug from affecting financial markets.

• AO Lukoil Holding, Russia's second-largest oil producer, said the government's minimum asking price of \$2.1 billion plus a \$400 million minimum investment for a 75 percent stake of state-owned oil company RAO Rosneft was too high.

• Benetton Group SpA, the Italian clothing maker, will ask shareholders to approve a 10-for-1 share split to make its stock more accessible to investors and increase trading activity. Benetton shares have surged 25 percent this year, to 38,300 lire (\$21.10).

Bloomberg, Reuters

BA and AA Near Deal on Landing Slots

Bloomberg News

BRUSSELS — American Airlines Inc. and British Airways PLC are nearing an agreement to surrender takeoff and landing slots in London to win European Union approval for their planned alliance, an EU spokesman said Wednesday.

The European Commission will rule in May, the spokesman said. The commission has been trying to write

concessions from the carriers, including the yielding of slots at London's Heathrow Airport and cuts in the frequency of some flights.

"The fact that BA and AA are still at the table and confident of a deal makes you give them the benefit of the doubt that the eventual deal will be in shareholders' interests," said Chris Avery, an analyst with Paribas Capital Markets.

Once approved by the EU executive agency, the alliance, proposed in June 1996, would still face scrutiny from U.S. regulators.

The carriers have said that the EU's initial demands to give up 350 of their 3,352 weekly slots at Heathrow were enough to kill the alliance plan. Some reports have said the EU was willing to let them give up fewer than 300 slots.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Wednesday, April 8

Prices in local currencies.

High Low Close Prev.

Amsterdam

AEX Index: 1145.82

Previous: 1145.82

ABN-AMRO

23.50 23.50 23.50

Adia

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Alm

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NYSE

Wednesday's 4 P.M. Close

Wednesday's 4 P.M. Close
The 2,600 most traded stocks of the day

Prices not reflecting late trades elsewhere.

Worldwide prices not reflecting late bro
The Associated Press

[illegible]

ASIA/PACIFIC

Bond Buyers Show Faith In Seoul

Compiled by the Staff from Reuters

LONDON — Investors snapped up South Korea's \$4 billion global bond offer Wednesday, in what many bankers called a strong vote of confidence in a country that stood on the brink of financial collapse at the beginning of the year.

South Korea sold \$3 billion in 10-year bonds and \$1 billion in five-year notes. The face value of the 10-year securities was raised from the originally planned sale of \$2 billion. Bankers said the increase proved that investors were prepared for a long-term commitment to the country's prospects.

South Korea is a strong emerging-market credit, which people see as moving fairly rapidly back to investment grade, said Iain Hardie, a manager at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter in London.

South Korea almost went broke at the end of last year, before the International Monetary Fund agreed to a record \$60 billion rescue package and international banks forged a \$24 billion debt-restructuring program. The success of the sale Wednesday will allow other South Korean and Asian borrowers to tap international investors for funds in the coming months, analysts said.

The sale was South Korea's first in a borrowing plan expected to raise \$9 billion this year.

Demand for the securities was enhanced because South Korea's bonds will be included in J.P. Morgan's Emerging Markets Bond Index Plus fund, often used as a benchmark against which to measure portfolio returns.

The 10-year bonds are likely to yield 350 to 355 basis points more than U.S. Treasuries, and the five-year issue will yield 345 to 348 basis points more than Treasuries, said fund managers and bankers familiar with the sale. Many added that South Korea's bond was encouraging for all new issues from emerging markets. (Bloomberg, Reuters)



Seiko says its "Ruputer" can link up with other computers.

A PC Wristwatch? Seiko Says It'll Soon Be Ready

TOKYO — Seiko Instruments Inc. said Wednesday that it would begin selling wristwatch personal computers in Japan on June 10. It said the new product would be the world's first wearable PC. The watch, called the Ruputer, can download data that includes text and pictures from other personal computers, the company said. It added that the watch would be sold with three software applications that ran on Microsoft Corp.'s Windows 95 operating system.

The watches come equipped with a 16-bit central processing unit and 128 kilobytes of main memory, Seiko said.

The company said it would launch two Ruputer models with retail prices of 38,000 yen (\$285) and 48,000 yen, Seiko said. It hoped to sell 100,000 of the watches in their first year.

Australia Helps Firms To Cut Dock Workers

CANBERRA — The Australian government threw a financial lifeline Wednesday to waterfront employers struggling with unions over who controls the docks, and set benchmarks intended to lift industry productivity.

Lang Corp.'s Patrick Stevedores fired 1,500 workers overnight, triggering severance packages totaling more than 150 million Australian dollars (\$100 million), which the company cannot pay.

But Peter Reith, the Workplace Relations minister, announced a 250 million-dollar line of credit available to Patrick Stevedores and any other waterfront employer needing to pay severance packages in order to improve productivity. The money will be repaid by a levy on all cars and containers crossing Australia's docks.

The federal court in Melbourne separately ordered Patrick Stevedores to keep paying the dockers

and not to hire nonunion labor. But Patrick said Wednesday that the court's ruling would not disrupt the resumption of operations on its wharves using nonunion labor supplied by a port operator.

The court granted a weeklong injunction against Patrick Stevedores pending the start next Wednesday of hearings into the union's allegations of an illegal conspiracy to destroy it. The union counts the government and Patrick among those conspirators.

Almost all of Australia's international trade passes through its docks, which have a long-standing reputation for inefficiency and high wage costs.

In firing the 1,500 workers, Patrick said it had been unable to get an agreement on more efficient work practices.

Thousands of workers took to the streets in cities across Australia in support of the dockers. (Reuters, Bloomberg)

Investor's Asia

Hong Kong Hang Seng	Singapore Straits Times	Tokyo Nikkei 225
13000	2000	17500
12000	1800	17000
11000	1600	16500
10000	1400	16000
9000	1200	15500
8000	1000	15000
7000	800	14500
6000	600	14000
5000	400	13500
4000	200	13000
3000	0	12500
2000		12000
1000		11500
0		11000
1997	1997	1997
Exchange Index	Wednesday Close	Prev. Close
Hong Kong Hang Seng	11,314.46	11,049.43 +2.40
Singapore Straits Times	1,573.08	1,549.93 +1.48
Sydney All Ordinaries	2,813.50	2,794.80 +0.67
Tokyo Nikkei 225	16,376.62	15,978.72 +2.49
Kuala Lumpur Composite	684.28	683.77 +0.08
Bangkok SET	444.33	430.04 +3.32
Seoul Composite Index	455.53	458.58 -0.88
Taipei Stock Market Index	9,263.44	9,266.68 -0.03
Manila PSE	2,193.47	2,183.35 +0.46
Jakarta Composite Index	5,300.06	5,261.41 +0.74
Wellington NZSE-40	2,292.15	2,296.26 -0.18
Bombay Sensitive Index	4,183.57	4,194.27 -0.26

Very briefly:

- Kao Corp. of Japan plans to acquire Bausch & Lomb Inc.'s skin-care business for \$135 million through Kao's wholly owned U.S. subsidiary Andrew Jergens Co.
- Nippon Telegraph & Telephone Corp. plans to invest as much as \$100 million in Verio Inc., an Internet-service provider based in Englewood, Colorado.
- Iscar Ltd. of Israel put on hold its plans to buy Korea Tungsten Co.'s main factory after workers locked officials in a building to protest the terms of the transaction. Labor unions at the South Korean company, which is a subsidiary of Kao Pyung Group, are demanding 20 percent of the sale proceeds.
- Japan's domestic shipments of computer servers rose in 1997, although the pace of growth is expected to slow in 1998, according to the market researcher IDC Japan Ltd.
- Yasuo Hamanaka, a former copper trader, appealed his eight-year prison sentence for fraud and forgery in connection with Sumitomo Corp.'s losses that totaled \$2.6 billion.
- Cadence Design Systems Inc., a U.S. software specialist, will provide Oki Electric Industry Co. advice on the development of System LSI chips. The three-year deal is part of Oki's strategy to shift its semiconductor business from dynamic random-access memory chips to large-scale integration chips and logic integrated circuit chips.
- Federal Express Corp. inaugurated five direct flights a week to Jakarta, saying the move reflected the U.S. delivery company's conviction that Indonesia's economy would recover. Federal Express favors the Indonesian market because of its manufacturing sector, its many multinational companies and its suppliers of components and semiconductors for export.
- PT Bank Indonesia is holding preliminary merger talks with listed and unlisted banks that are strong in the retail-banking field. The Indonesian bank also is negotiating with a few foreign institutions to form strategic alliances.
- Indonesia revised downward its oil-price forecast in its 1998-99 budget to \$14.50 a barrel, citing revised market expectations, compared with the price of \$16.50 used in the 1997-98 budget.

ECONOMISTS: Universities Are Opening Their Coffers to Lure Top Professors to Their Campuses

Continued from Page 11

used to brag that "I have never matched an outside offer!" — is, by all accounts, building a "war chest" to fend off future raids.

Just as extraordinary as the salary Columbia will pay is the cornucopia of perks and privileges Mr. Barro won in months of negotiations.

To lure him, Columbia helped place his teenage son in an exclusive Manhattan private school, offered a \$55,000-a-year university post to his wife, Judy, who is just returning to the work force, and eased out the prior tenant of a 2,300-square-foot (215-square-meter) university-owned apartment on Riverside Drive, which the Barros coveted. The rent is subsidized, with a lavish renovation, courtesy of Columbia, thrown in for good measure.

While Mr. Barro also has other sources of income, it all adds up to at least a \$150,000 gain for his family.

Other parts of the deal even entail hefty investments by Columbia. Mr. Barro will occupy three spacious offices

on the impossibly cramped and overcrowded campus. He will direct a sizable chunk of resources at the university's new social science research center. Most important, Mr. Barro will have a green-light from the administration to recruit a half-dozen promising younger economists.

To be sure, academic recruiting beyond the junior level — particularly in New York where housing and schools are major stumbling blocks — has always been a complex, expensive undertaking. But Columbia's willingness to put together a deal of these proportions shows how much it expects to benefit from Barro's presence.

"We're capturing a lot of the surplus that Robert will generate," said Glenn Hubbard, an economist in the university's business school, one of the main flag carriers in the Barro negotiations.

Economics is now the No. 1 major at Columbia. As enrollments have doubled, the faculty has shrunk. The business school, now one of the most competitive in the country, also considers a highly rated economics department

vital to its own continuing success.

The business-school dean, Mayer Feldberg, consulted Milton Friedman on the hire. "Milton was very positive," Mr. Feldberg recalled. "He said, 'Barro's young. He's got visibility.' People are drawn to him."

Not all of Mr. Barro's peers are equally enthusiastic.

Some consider his recent empirical work superficial, others feel his theoretical work is less elegant than, say, that of Mr. Lucas, who first coined the phrase "rational expectations" and is revered for his rigorous, spare style.

Still others point to Mr. Barro's prickly persona (he was known, as a young professor at the University of

Chicago, for his outbursts during debates and his scathing attitude toward less stellar colleagues).

The notion that a big push can restore Columbia's faded glory is a tantalizing one. Columbia once had students

like Kenneth Arrow, Milton Friedman and the Federal Reserve Board chairman, Alan Greenspan. Its faculty included some of the great pioneers of empirical economics — Wesley Mitchell, Arthur Burns, George Stigler.

LEICOM FUND
20, Boulevard Emmanuel Servais, L-2535 Luxembourg
R.C. Luxembourg B 21 454

AVIS AUX ACTIONNAIRES

Messieurs les actionnaires sont convoqués par le présent avis à l'ASSEMBLEE GENERALE ORDINAIRE DES ACTIONNAIRES qui se tiendra au siège social à Luxembourg le 27 avril 1998 à 15 h 30, avec l'Ordre du jour suivant :

ORDRE DU JOUR

1. Compte rendu d'activité du Conseil d'Administration pour l'exercice se terminant le 31 décembre 1997 ;
2. Rapport du Réviseur d'Entreprises pour l'exercice se terminant le 31 décembre 1997 ;
3. Approbation des comptes de l'exercice se terminant le 31 décembre 1997 ;
4. Approbation du résultat de l'exercice se terminant le 31 décembre 1997 ;
5. Décharge aux Administrateurs et au Réviseur d'Entreprises pour l'exercice se terminant le 31 décembre 1997 ;
6. Nomination des organes sociaux :
- Nomination des Administrateurs ;
- Nomination du Réviseur d'Entreprises ;
7. Divers.

Les actionnaires sont informés qu'aucun quorum n'est requis pour cette assemblée et que les décisions sont prises à la majorité simple des actions présentes ou représentées.

Chaque action a un droit de vote.

Tout actionnaire peut voter par mandataire. A cette fin, des procurations sont disponibles au siège social et seront envoyées aux actionnaires sur demande.

Afin d'être valables, les procurations doivent être signées par les actionnaires devant être envoyées au siège social afin d'être reçues le jour précédant l'Assemblée à 17 heures au plus tard.

Les propriétaires d'actions au porteur, désirant participer à cette assemblée, doivent déposer leurs actions cinq jours ouvrables avant l'Assemblée au siège social de la société.

Les actionnaires désireux d'obtenir le Rapport Annuel Audité au 31 décembre 1997 peuvent s'adresser au siège social de la société.

Pour la société,
BANQUE DE GESTION EDMOND DE ROTHSCHILD LUXEMBOURG
Société Anonyme
20, Boulevard Emmanuel Servais
L-2535 LUXEMBOURG

LUXOR INVESTMENT COMPANY
Société d'Investissement à Capital Variable
10A, Boulevard Royal, LUXEMBOURG
R.C. Luxembourg B 27.109

NOTICE OF MEETING

The notice required by law not having been received at the Extraordinary General Meeting convened on 23rd March, 1998, the shareholders of LUXOR INVESTMENT COMPANY are hereby convened to attend the postponed Extraordinary General Meeting of Shareholders to be held at the Registered Office of the Company, 10A, Boulevard Royal, Luxembourg, on Monday 27th April, 1998 at 11 a.m., for the purpose of considering the following Agenda:

1. To resolve on the liquidation of the Company
2. To appoint a liquidator and to determine his powers
3. To suspend the calculation of the net asset value
4. To suspend all subscriptions and repurchases of shares
5. To convene an extraordinary general meeting which will rule on the following agenda:
 1. To approve the liquidator's report and the statement of liquidation of Luxor Investment Company (in process of being liquidated)
 2. To approve the payment of the creditors and the distribution of the remaining net assets to the shareholders, after payment of the debts
 3. To appoint an auditor
 4. To convene an extraordinary general meeting which will rule on the following points:
 - (i) approval of the auditor's report
 - (ii) discharge to be granted to the liquidator, the auditor and the Board of Directors
 - (iii) resolution concerning the final liquidation of the Company
 - (iv) the keeping of accounts and company documents

Resolutions on the agenda of the postponed Extraordinary General Meeting will be adopted if voted by two thirds of the shareholders present or represented, irrespective of the proportion of the outstanding shares which are present or represented at the meeting.

The shareholders on record on the date of the meeting are entitled to vote or give proxies. Proxies should arrive at the Registered Office of the Company not later than twenty-four hours before the meeting.

Proxy forms are available upon request at the registered office. In order to be valid, proxy forms duly completed must be received at the registered office on 24th April, 1998 at 11 a.m. at the latest.

In order to attend the meeting, the owners of bearer shares are required to deposit their shares not less than five clear days before the date of the meeting at the Registered Office.

By order of the Board of Directors

The Government of Romania
THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

The Ministry of Communications intends to privatize The Romanian Post Office through the promotion of private sector participation via an initial public offering in Romania.

The Ministry of Communications announces the tender for appointing a Privatization Advisor with relevant experience in privatization process and in post office operations. The Privatization Advisor shall provide accounting, financial, legal and technical advisory services to The Ministry of Communications and The Romanian Post Office.

The Terms of Reference documents are available at The Ministry of Communications, #14 Libertatii Ave., 70106 Bucharest, Romania (Tel: +401/400 1102).

ASIAN CAPITAL HOLDINGS FUND
20, Boulevard Emmanuel Servais, L-2535 Luxembourg
R.C. Luxembourg B 41 100

NOTICE TO THE SHAREHOLDERS

Notice is hereby given that an ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the shareholders of ASIAN CAPITAL HOLDINGS FUND will be held at the registered office of the Company on 28 April 1998 at 3.30 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Approval of the report of the Board of Directors and the report of the Auditor for the year ending on 31 December 1997
2. Approval of the financial statements for the year ending on 31 December 1997
3. Allocation of the net result
4. Ratification of the co-optation of Mr Christopher Preston, Mr Rick Sopher and Mr Peter Vandekerckhove in the place of Mr Sheila Rordan, Mr Olivier d'Aurion and Mr Peter Stevens respectively
5. Retirement of the outgoing Directors and the Auditor from their duties for the year ending on 31 December 1997
6. Appointment of the Directors
7. Any other business

Resolutions of the shareholders will be passed by a simple majority of those present and voting and each share is entitled to one vote. A shareholder may act by any meeting by proxy.

On behalf of the Company,
BANQUE DE GESTION EDMOND DE ROTHSCHILD LUXEMBOURG
Société Anonyme
20, Boulevard Emmanuel Servais
L-2535 LUXEMBOURG

She had her book open even before she was properly sitting down. She smiled as she was reading, sometimes even laughed out loud, often casting a dreamy glance at the blanket of clouds below her. No questions, no requests. Everything was just fine.

For information and bookings:
www.swissair.com
or call your local travel agent.

swissair
the refreshing airline

The 1,000 most traded National Market securities in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.

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**For information on how to list your fund, fax Katy Hourli at (33-1) 41 43 82 12 or E-mail: funds@iht.com
To receive free daily quotations for your funds by E-mail: subscribe@e-funds@iht.com**

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The data in the list above is the NAV supplied by the fund groups to Mifoxip SA. It is collected and reformatted into the list below being transmitted to the Mifoxip Group and the ITF do not warrant the quality or accuracy of the list, the data or the performance of funds of the Fund Groups and will not be liable for the list, the data or the performance of the funds of the Fund Groups. The list is not and shall not be deemed to be an offer by the ITF or Mifoxip to sell securities or investments of any kind. Investments can fall as well as rise. Past performance does not guarantee future success. It is advisable to seek advice from a qualified independent adviser before investing.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Japanese Confident

SOCCER Japanese officials said Wednesday that there were no plans to change arrangements for the 2002 World Cup despite financial problems in Asia. Akira Odajima, a spokesman for the Japanese organizing committee, said he was sure both Japan and South Korea would be able to fulfill their obligations even if South Korea abandons plans to build new stadiums. He said Japan could pick up any slack if South Korea's plans changed.

"The suggestion that South Korea or we might drop out is laughable," he said.

Lennart Johansson and Sepp Blatter were confirmed Wednesday as the sole candidates for the presidency of FIFA, the governing body of world soccer. No other contenders came forward before Tuesday's midnight deadline. Johansson is president of UEFA, which runs European soccer, and Blatter is FIFA's general secretary.

Tommy Smith, the tough-tackling former Liverpool defender, is recovering after a car crash. The 53-year-old was in intensive care at Ormskirk and District General Hospital, near Liverpool, suffering from chest injuries, broken ribs and a fractured collar bone sustained in the accident on Monday. (Reuters)

Snead Suffers Mini-Stroke

GOLF Sam Snead was hospitalized, missing the Masters champions dinner Tuesday, after he reportedly had a mini-stroke. The Augusta (Georgia) Chronicle reported Wednesday. Snead, 85, was listed in fair condition at Augusta's University Hospital.

Snead won the Masters in 1949, 1952 and 1954. He was scheduled to join Gene Sarazen and Byron Nelson as honorary starters on Thursday morning. (AP)

Police to Quiz Wizards

BASKETBALL The police plan to question Juwan Howard and Chris Webber, two forwards with the Washington Wizards, over a woman's accusation that she was sexually assaulted during a party at Howard's home. No charges have been filed against either player.

Korleone Young, a 6-foot-7 forward at Hargrave Military Academy in Virginia, is skipping college to enter the NBA draft. "In my heart, I think I can become a good NBA basketball player," he said. Scott Shepherd, the Hargrave coach, said Young visited Arkansas, Connecticut, Georgetown and UNLV and would have qualified academically for college. (AP)

Royals Trade Catcher

BASEBALL The Kansas City Royals traded Mike MacFarlane, a catcher, to the Oakland Athletics for the outfielder Shane Mack and a player to be named, Herk Robinson, the Royals' general manager, said Wednesday. (AP)



Defending champion Tiger Woods practicing at Augusta National on Wednesday. The Masters starts Thursday.

Bad News, Guys: Tiger's Even Better

By Leonard Shapiro
Washington Post Service

AUGUSTA, Georgia—Tiger Woods knew he had done something special a year ago when he blew away the field by 12 shots and, at 21, became the youngest champion in Masters history.

Still, he said Tuesday, the magnitude of that stunning and historic victory truly hit home for the first time in his opening practice round of the week. "I was out there playing at 7 o'clock, and there are about a thousand people following out there on a Monday afternoon screaming my name, wanting me to look this way, look that way for a picture," he said. "That wasn't the case last year. I played nine holes in absolute solitude last year."

This week, Woods has come back to Augusta National as the clear-cut favorite to prevail again. After all, didn't six-time champion Jack Nicklaus once predict at a Masters news conference that before Woods was through playing, he would win more green jackets than both Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer combined (a total of 10)?

On Tuesday, Nicklaus made it clear he hasn't changed his mind. Honored in a special ceremony marking his 40th appearance in the Masters, he said: "I'd be very surprised if he didn't win. It's the nature of his game. If he just plays normal, he'll win. If he plays poorly, he'll be in contention. And if he plays well, he'll run away with the golf tournament."

Woods also let it be known that he believes he can win again this year. He believes that even if he hasn't won in the United States since July at the Western Open, even if he hasn't played under par in any of his last six rounds, even if many of the game's top young guns—Ernie Els, Justin Leonard, Lee Westwood, among others—are riding a wave of confidence over victories in recent weeks.

"The overall package is better this

year," Woods said. "Even with 150 in my last two rounds at Bay Hill, I still have the lowest stroke average on the tour. I've been very close to playing good golf. I was not far off at The Players Championship. You look at six rounds over or even par and you would say I'm struggling, but I'm not."

Woods is a far better player coming into the fourth Masters of his career than he was a year ago. At that time, he set a tournament record with an 18-under total of 270, breaking Nicklaus's mark of 271 in 1965, and did not have a three-putt over the 72 holes.

On Tuesday, he said he also did not miss a putt inside 10 feet over the entire tournament. "I still can't believe that," said Colin Montgomerie, a Scot who played with Woods in the third round last year. "That's incredible."

Woods last won in January when he came from eight shots behind in the final round to overtake Els and win in a playoff at the Johnnie Walker in Thailand. In his first five events on the PGA Tour this year, he had five top-13 finishes, including a tie for second at Mercedes and second alone when he lost in a playoff to Billy Mayfair at the Nissan Open in Los Angeles.

"I feel good," he said. "I'm hitting the ball well. I'm putting well. I've putted well all year. I'm ready."

David Leadbetter, the instructor who tutors Greg Norman and Nick Faldo, said there was no question Woods is a vastly improved player from a year ago.

"He definitely has a few more shots in his arsenal," said Leadbetter. "He's learning it's not just a power game—it's also finesse. He's still got his great length, but he's learning to work the ball so much better. And he totally believes in himself. That's always been obvious. But there is great competition out here, and it's tough to win every week."

Asked if he thought he could match his perfection of a year ago, Woods quickly answered: "Yeah, I can eliminate the 40. There's no way you can

attain perfection. We're all human, we all make mistakes." Woods shot 40 on his first nine holes last year.

"I think this year is much easier because I know how to win here. Any time you defend, you understand what it takes. Last year, I didn't know."

Many of his competitors also are being asked this week if Woods can possibly top last year's performance.

Said Montgomerie: "We're all hoping it's just once. If he plays and puts the way he did last year, we've got a real battle on our hands."

Red Wings Conquer the Blues To Stay in Dogfight With Stars

The Associated Press

The Detroit Red Wings pulled even with the Dallas Stars at the top of the Western Conference by beating the St. Louis Blues, 5-3.

Although Detroit and Dallas each have 99 points, the Stars hold the conference's No. 1 playoff seed because they have more victories.

NHL Roundup

cause they have two more victories than the Red Wings. Detroit has five games remaining and Dallas has six. The top team would have the home-ice advantage should the two teams meet in the conference playoff final.

Kris Draper broke a 3-3 tie with 2:06 left in regulation on Tuesday night in Detroit as the Red Wings extended their winning streak to four and snapped the Blues' winning streak at five. Steve Yzerman's empty-net goal clinched the victory with 1:13 left.

Al MacInnis had a goal and an assist for the Blues and became just the sixth defenseman in National

On a Night of Pain, Manning Hurts Most

Kemp Gets Knocked Down, but He Gets Up Again

The Associated Press

Danny Manning went down with another knee injury: Shawn Kemp was knocked unconscious, and Rod Strickland pulled up lame, on a rough night in the National Basketball Association.

Manning's injury appeared to be the most serious. He was flown back to Phoenix after injuring the anterior cruciate ligament Tuesday night in his right

happened," he said. "That's what the game is about. You get hit and you've got to bounce back and take it."

Kemp tied the score at 80-80 when he hit two free throws with 26.2 seconds left. Reggie Miller hit a 22-footer with 8.8 seconds left to win the game for the Pacers. Kemp finished with 16 points and 11 rebounds after missing five of his first six shots before getting injured.

Bulls 103, Wizards 85 Strickland suffered a strained left quadriceps late in the first half of Washington's loss in Chicago. He played only two minutes in the second half.

With Strickland out, the Bulls pulled away in the third quarter, outscoring the Wizards by 30-14.

Rod Strickland got hurt, and they lost the head of the body," said Michael Jordan. "They didn't know where to follow from that point. He ignites their offense. Without him, they really didn't have any leadership."

Jordan scored 30 and Dennis Rodman grabbed 20 rebounds as the Bulls won their 13th in a row.

Jazz 101, Warriors 99 Karl Malone scored 56 points as Utah edged Golden State in Oakland.

Malone had the second-highest point total of his career and the fourth-highest in Jazz history. He shot 18-for-29 from the field—including a 4-footer with 2.2 seconds left for the victory—and 19-for-23 from the line.

"You get into something like this two or three times in your career," Malone said. "I felt that every guy that was guarding me was at my mercy."

It was the highest individual total since Glen Rice scored 56 for Miami against Orlando in 1995.

Timberwolves 92, Heat 89 In Minneapolis, Kevin Garnett had 27 points and 14 boards to lead the Wolves within one victory of a franchise record for a season. Alonzo Mourning, who missed two games with a fractured cheekbone, had 28 points and 9 rebounds while wearing a mask.

Hawks 92, Knicks 79 In Atlanta, Dikembe Mutombo matched a season-high with 19 rebounds in addition to 17 points and 6 blocks.

Charles Oakley of New York was called for a flagrant foul on Mutombo and was due to miss Wednesday's game against Miami for accumulating his seventh flagrant foul point.

"I didn't do nothing," Oakley said.

Trail Blazers 99, Mavericks 91 In Dallas, Isaiah Rider scored 26 points and Walt Williams, Rashad Wallace and Brian Grant all had 17 points for Portland.

Rockets 104, Nuggets 87 In Denver, Clyde Drexler moved past Patrick Ewing into 17th place on the NBA's career scoring list with 22,085 points as Houston ended its six-game losing streak.

Bucks 114, Raptors 105 In Milwaukee, Ray Allen scored 28 points as the Bucks won for the fourth time in five games. Toronto lost its 10th straight.

Grizzlies 110, Clippers 94 In Los Angeles, Shaquille O'Neal scored 30 points as Vancouver equaled the largest margin of victory in franchise history.

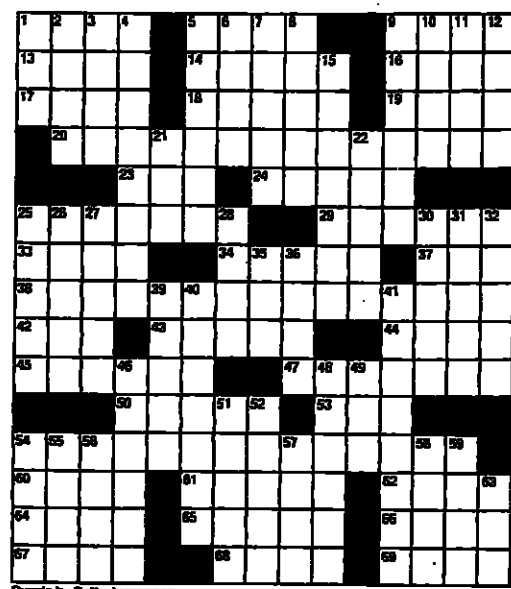
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Reiner of TV
- 5 Coin collector?
- 9 Subject for an insurance company
- 13 "A Death in the Family" author
- 14 One of the Donald's exes
- 16 Bell ringer
- 17 Mine car
- 18 Make — of (embarrass)
- 19 Permission to go
- 20 Start of a quip by 52-Down
- 21 King Cole
- 24 Powerful person
- 25 Stalemate
- 29 Relating to a cemetery terminal
- 33 Helpful information
- 34 Beginning with frost or press
- 37 Neighbor of Ida
- 38 Middle of the quip
- 42 Actress Hagen
- 43 Spheres
- 44 Bithe spirit
- 45 Sick, to Simone
- 47 Maine town with a navy yard
- 50 Catch by the neck
- 53 Party label
- 54 End of the quip

DOWN

- 1 Jazzman
- 2 Indian tourist site
- 3 Deciphered
- 4 Kind of stand
- 5 Common sense
- 6 Churl
- 7 Upside-down smile
- 8 Honolulu's — Tower
- 9 Decorative water bowl
- 10 "Ars amatoria" poet
- 11 Fair
- 12 Catch
- 15 The Crimson Tide
- 21 Western Hemisphere assoc.
- 22 Having melodic harmony
- 25 Ancient Troy
- 26 Hostess Perle
- 27 Word with bull or cross
- 28 Olympics equipment
- 30 Holmes's creator
- 31 Like a stadium after a homer
- 32 The kid in "The Heartbreak Kid"
- 33 Fraternity letter
- 36 Twice-baked bread
- 39 Speeder's downfall
- 40 Job for the mailroom
- 41 Cry accompanying frantic pounding
- 46 Irving Berlin classic
- 48 — delight (solitaire game)
- 49 Koppel of "Nightline"
- 51 Zzzz
- 52 Humonst Nash
- 54 Red-bearded god
- 55 Offendee
- 56 Female in France
- 57 Excite
- 58 Soup pods
- 59 Go kaput
- 60 Initials in fashion



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Dhaenens: A Modest, Unselfish Cyclist

By Samuel Abt
International Herald Tribune

PARIS—Rudy Dhaenens was right: He never had much luck.

Driving on Sunday to the finish of the Tour of Flanders bicycle race, where he would be a consultant for the Eurosport Belgium television channel, he somehow lost control of his car, swerved off the road and into a power pylon. He died Monday night in a hospital from head injuries, leaving a wife and two children. He would have been 37 on Friday.

The Tour of Flanders was one of his favorite races, not only because he was a Belgian and a native of Flanders but mainly because he finished second in the classic in 1990. Dhaenens had a special affection for races in which he had ridden well: second in Paris-Roubaix in 1986, third there in 1987 and fifth in 1985; fourth in Liege-Bastogne-Liege in 1990 and in the Het Volk in 1988, third in the Belgian national championships in 1985.

Usually he looked like a small boy who asked Santa for a set of trains for Christmas and got instead underwear and a book, but his plain face could light up when he discussed the few races he had won. The world championship in Japan in 1990 was the peak, of course.

Dhaenens and a Belgian teammate, Dirk de Wolf, managed to get out in

front of the pack and, after de Wolf collided with their only close pursuer, Dag-Otto Lauritzen of Norway, and left him with a disabled bicycle, the way to the finish was clear. Dhaenens won by a second or two.

There have been unlikelier world champions. Dhaenens had also won a daily stage in the 1986 Tour de France and came close to repeating in 1989. He broke away alone and was heading for victory when he entered the final curve, 400 or so meters from the line.

"I took the corner too fast, maybe, or something happened with my wheel, maybe, and I slipped," he explained in an interview the next spring. "I still don't know," he admitted.

His bicycle skidded out from under him and he was thrown to the ground. When he got to his feet and found that his rear wheel was mangled, he could do nothing more than scream with rage as the pack shot by. Instead of being an easy winner, he was the last man to cross the finish line. "It just happened, so what can you do?" he asked those months later.

Because of an injury to Sean Kelly, Dhaenens had been promoted to lead the PDM team in the 1990 Paris-Roubaix, but he understood who he was — a dependable, unselfish rider of moderate talent, not a star.

"Laurent Fignon wins more than I do, probably because he expects more of

himself," Dhaenens said, referring to the Frenchman who won the Tour de France twice.

The talk turned to Moreno Argentin, the Italian who had finished first ahead of Dhaenens a week earlier in the Tour of Flanders. "There are guys who aren't often good during the year but when they're good, they win," he said. "Like Argentin: When he's super, he wins. He's super maybe four or five days a year, but he wins four of the five times."

"I'm not like him. I'm always in the top group, usually in the front, but never win. And that's what's important in cycling races. To win, you need luck."

He had that at the world championships four months later, but by the end of the 1992 season, he had to retire because of medical problems.

Not much was seen of Dhaenens for the next few years. Then, last July, he showed up in the press room at the start of the Tour de France, looking tentative. He was working in a slight job, perhaps as a television consultant, perhaps as a representative of a bicycle shoe or saddle company. He looked pleased to be remembered.

"We must talk," he said. "I'll tell you what I've been doing. I'll be with the race only a few days," he warned.

But in the bustle of the Tour, those few days sped by, and then he was not to be found, and now he has been killed.

Football - Road to the World Cup

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Eurosport, Europe's No.1 Sports TV Channel, available on cable and satellite

Milwaukee Welcomes Senior Circuit Home

Fans in Milwaukee were happy as National League baseball returned to their city for the first time in 33 years. "That's the largest crowd I've ever seen here," said Scott Karl, the Brewers pitcher, Tuesday after 51,408 came to County Stadium and saw Milwaukee

BASEBALL ROUNDUP

beat the winless Montreal Expos 6-4. "There were times last year when I actually enjoyed pitching on the road more because the crowds were so loud, so exciting."

Milwaukee became the first team this century to switch leagues. It was the first NL game in town since Sept. 22, 1965, when the Braves lost to the Los Angeles Dodgers in 11 innings. They moved to Atlanta the following season. Hank Aaron, who broke the record for major league home runs while playing for the Braves in Milwaukee and Atlanta, threw out the first ball, a one-hopper to the plate, during pregame ceremonies.

"We left in '66 because no one came to the games," said Felipe Alou, the Expos' manager and a former Brave. "So, it was encouraging to see so many people. Once the game starts, though, you don't have time for nostalgia."

Phillies 8, Marlins 6 Philadelphia came back from an 8-4 deficit to beat Florida in the 10th inning.

Doug Glavine hit a run scoring single with two outs in the 10th to Florida to its seventh straight loss.

Derreck Lee had a grand slam and batted in five runs for the Marlins.

Dodgers 9, Diamondbacks 1 With Rupert Murdoch, the new Dodger owner, in the stands, Eric Young hit a two-

out, two-run double as Los Angeles broke out of a tie with a five-run fourth inning in its home opener.

Braves 11, Pirates 3 Chipper Jones homered twice off Jason Schmidt in the first three innings in Pittsburgh, where a sellout crowd of 43,268 saw the Pirates lose their fifth straight home opener.

Cardinals 12, Rockies 11 Tom Lampkin homered and drove in four runs in Denver's home opener. St. Louis built a 9-1 lead, withstood a seven-run sixth and scored three runs in the seventh.

Giants 5, Astros 4 Rey Sanchez, pinch-hitting, singled in the winning run in the 10th as San Francisco won its home opener. T. Snow slid around the tag of catcher Tony Escobedo to score.

Padres 3, Reds 2 Carlos Hernandez tied the score with a two-out, two-run homer in the ninth, and Greg Vaughn hit a sacrifice fly off Jeff Shaw in the 10th as San Diego won its home opener.

Mets 3, Cubs 2 AJ Lirio, the New York pitcher, hit a two-run double at Wrigley Field for his first extra-base hit in 122 career at-bats and got his first victory for New York.

In American League games: Twins 12, Blue Jays 2 Roger Clemens pulled himself just after seven pitches, but by then he had already walked Minnesota's leadoff batter. Clemens took the loss after the shortest start of his career.

He said he strained a groin muscle while warming up. Clemens walked leadoff hitter Matt Lawton on five pitches and fell behind 2-0, to Brent Gates before calling time.

"Normally when Clemens throws his high pitch you can barely see it," Lawton said. "But I had no problem picking up his first pitch. It was one of the rare



The Giants' Orel Hershiser snagging a drive by Astros' John Halama.

times when I was actually hoping Clemens would throw me a strike."

Robert Person relieved and walked Gates, a walk charged to Clemens. Both runners eventually scored in a four-run first inning.

Yankees 13, Mariners 7 Chuck Knoblauch homered on the first pitch of the game, and Darrell Strawberry and Jorge Posada also connected in a six-run first inning at the Kingdome.

Strawberry hit two home runs and a double and drove in four runs. He had not homered since 1996 after spending most of last year on the disabled list.

Angels 6, Red Sox 1 Ken Hill shut out Boston on five hits for eight innings, and Phil Nevin and Darin Erstad homered at Anaheim.

Hill walked none, struck out four and

retired 13 of his last 14 batters. He has not given up a run in two starts this season.

Cecil Fielder, in his 22d at-bat of the season, drove in his first run for the Angels with a double.

Orioles 14, Royals 7 Joe Carter drove in four runs and Baltimore won its sixth straight game, spoiling Kansas City's home opener.

Eric Davis and Lenny Webster homered and Roberto Alomar had four hits for the Orioles, whose only loss came against the Royals in the home opener in Baltimore.

The crowd of 40,419 was the Royals' largest for a home opener since 1988.

Tigers 3, Devil Rays 1 Detroit stopped a five-game losing streak before a home opener crowd of 45,768, the first sellout at Tiger Stadium since April 11, 1994.

New Stamp Will Make Dodger Fans Go Postal

By Ira Berkow
New York Times Service

They are going to make a stamp commemorating a home run — not any home run, to be sure, but the one called "The Shot Heard 'Round the World."

And just when one may be legitimately wondering how the U.S. Postal Service can possibly consider a long blow in a baseball game on Oct. 3, 1951, between two New York teams, the Giants and the Dodgers, still of any interest — an interleague competition between long-gone adversaries — there is a tall, white-haired, soft-spoken gentleman from New Jersey to remind us.

"One day some 20 years after it happened, I got a call from a man in Boston," said Bobby Thomson, now 74, and as lean as when he was an outfielder for the Giants. "The man says, 'I've wanted to call you for a long time and tell you where I was when you hit that home run and what happened when you did. Do you mind?'"

"I said, 'No, go ahead.' I wasn't doing much and I've heard so many stories about where people were, and I know they like to talk about it. Sometimes I tune out. But not this time. He had taken the effort to call, and it was long distance."

The man said he had been in the Marines in Korea during the war there. "We were all spread out, and I'm in a bunker and my best buddy is the craziest giant fan ever and he is listening to the ball game," the man told Thomson.

"This is a no-no. I mean, if the enemy hears us, one shot could take us all out. But he keeps the radio real low. And then the big moment approached."

The "big moment" arrived after the

Giants had been behind the first-place Dodgers by 1 1/2 games in August, but made a comeback, moving into a tie for first place in the National League on the last Friday of the season, causing a two-of-three-game playoff.

The "big moment" arrived after the series had been tied, 4-1, going into bottom of the ninth. The Giants had scored one run and had two runners on with one out when Ralph Branca came in to relieve Don Newcombe.

The "big moment" arrived when Thomson came to the plate.

"And then," said the former Marine on the phone from Boston, "when you hit the home run to win the game — well, my buddy got so excited he shot off his rifle! And then the whole place erupted! People started shooting on the right of us, and the left of us, and the enemy started firing back. I remember one of the commanders hollering, 'What's going on here! My buddy got killed in action about a year later. But I promised myself, for his sake, that one day I'd tell you the story.'"

"And I told him that I'm glad he did," Thomson said.

The Postal Service has announced that the home run, along with 14 other subjects, will represent the 1950s in its Celebrate the Century program, which was voted on by customers, among others.

Other sports stamps in this category are: "Rocky Marciano — Undeatable," "World Series Rivals (N.Y. Yankees vs. Brooklyn Dodgers)" and "Stock Car Racing."

Thomson has no elevated sense of self. When asked how the old Marine got his phone number, he said: "I'm in the phone book. I'm nobody special."

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Tampa Bay	4	3	.571	0
Boston	3	4	.429	1
New York	2	4	.333	2
Seattle	2	4	.333	2

CENTRAL DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cleveland	4	0	1.000	0
Calgary	3	1	.750	1
Minnesota	3	2	.600	2
Kansas City	3	2	.600	2
Detroit	2	4	.333	3

WEST DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Anaheim	4	2	.667	0
Los Angeles	3	3	.500	1
Oakland	3	3	.500	1

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	5	2	.714	0
Atlanta	4	2	.667	1
Philadelphia	4	2	.667	1
Florida	3	3	.500	2
Miami	1	7	.125	6

CENTRAL DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
St. Louis	4	2	.667	0
Chicago	3	3	.500	1
San Diego	3	3	.500	1
San Francisco	2	4	.333	2
Colorado	2	4	.333	2
Arizona	1	6	.143	4

WEST DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Diego	5	2	.714	0
San Francisco	4	2	.667	1
Colorado	4	2	.667	1
Arizona	3	3	.500	2

BASKETBALL

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	4	3	.571	0
New Jersey	3	4	.429	1
Philadelphia	3	4	.429	1
Washington	3	4	.429	1
Boston	2	4	.333	2

CENTRAL DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	5	2	.714	0
Indiana	4	3	.571	1
Cleveland	4	3	.571	1
Atlanta	3	4	.429	2
Charlotte	2	4	.333	3

PACIFIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Portland	5	2	.714	0
Seattle	4	3	.571	1
Golden State	4	3	.571	1
Phoenix	3	4	.429	2
Utah	2	4	.333	3

WOMEN'S EUROLEAGUE

Pool Games 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14, 15-16, 17-18, 19-20, 21-22, 23-24, 25-26, 27-28, 29-30, 31-32, 33-34, 35-36, 37-38, 39-40, 41-42, 43-44, 45-46, 47-48, 49-50, 51-52, 53-54, 55-56, 57-58, 59-60, 61-62, 63-64, 65-66, 67-68, 69-70, 71-72, 73-74, 75-76, 77-78, 79-80, 81-82, 83-84, 85-86, 87-88, 89-90, 91-92, 93-94, 95-96, 97-98, 99-100, 101-102, 103-104, 105-106, 107-108, 109-110, 111-112, 113-114, 115-116, 117-118, 119-120, 121-122, 123-124, 125-126, 127-128, 129-130, 131-132, 133-134, 135-136, 137-138, 139-140, 141-142, 143-144, 145-146, 147-148, 149-150, 151-152, 153-154, 155-156, 157-158, 159-160, 161-162, 163-164, 165-166, 167-168, 169-170, 171-172, 173-174, 175-176, 177-178, 179-180, 181-182, 183-184, 185-186, 187-188, 189-190, 191-192, 193-194, 195-196, 197-198, 199-200, 201-202, 203-204, 205-206, 207-208, 209-210, 211-212, 213-214, 215-216, 217-218, 219-220, 221-222, 223-224, 225-226, 227-228, 229-230, 231-232, 233-234, 235-236, 237-238, 239-240, 241-242, 243-244, 245-246, 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ART BUCHWALD

Give Us the Money

WASHINGTON — The most popular word in Washington is "reform." Senators, congressmen and members of the administration are constantly using it to explain to the electorate where their hearts really are.

When the legislators greet each other in the morning they say, "Have a nice reform day."

Before partaking of their lunch they pray, "Oh Lord, please show us how we can reform this legislative body so everyone will be given a fair deal no matter how much he donates to our campaigns."

This year the latest reform bill was sabotaged by the Republicans when someone pointed out that the party would run out of cash in 1998 if they didn't permit large companies and vested interests to give soft money to our great political system.

The good thing about soft money is that it looks like molasses but goes through

politicians' hands without getting their clothes soiled.

It differs from hard money in that it can be spent to educate Americans as to which way they should vote.

What makes soft money so attractive to politicians is that the people who give it can hire a senator or a congressman, or even sleep in the Lincoln Bedroom, if that is what the donor dreams of doing.



Buchwald

Long before the country was corrupted, our political leaders talked about reform. One group wanted to reform the Declaration of Independence, another the Constitution. Nothing ever came of these efforts because it precluded political favors. But it became a patriotic tradition, like setting off firecrackers on the Fourth of July.

The Republicans were the first to kill reform as a viable solution to a political problem.

Trent Lott, the Senate Majority Leader, told his troops, "We got the money, so why fix the problem when it isn't broken?"

Rock, by Rushdie

LONDON — Salman Rushdie says his next novel will examine the drug-fueled world of rock 'n' roll.

Rushdie spent time with the Irish rock band U2 and said he had written lyrics for the tunes of his fictional rock star. He hopes to get the lyrics set to music and to release a record to accompany the book.

"Now that I'm 51, the music is also middle-aged," he said.

Rushdie has been in hiding for nine years since Iran issued a death sentence against him for "The Satanic Verses."

A few honorable Republicans persisted in their fight for reform and were ordered to be investigated by the Senate Rules Committee on charges of political fund-raising harassment.

Despite all the talk, nothing has changed since the first reform bill was introduced in 1790 by Frederick Zither, a reform Republican who went bankrupt without collecting any soft money and was buried in Potter's Field. Legislators still tell jokes about him when they are on their way to the bank to cash their soft-money checks.

Washington Post Service

A World Apart, Wynette Sang Through the Hurt

By David Von Drehle
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The world was rushing pell-mell into the sexual revolution. Free love. Open marriage. No-fault divorce. Let the record show that one woman stood in the gap and forecast the storm of heartache that came to pass.

Tammy Wynette. It was 1968, the Summer of Love, and the hi-fis of the cultural elite were playing music of rebellion, freedom, idealism. A new world was coming — just an acid trip, psychoanalysis, commune or multiple orgasm away.

Next door and a world apart, out in the rest of America, Wynette's voice — raw, broken, sad, knowing — prophesied from a million jukeboxes and push-button AM car radios. The First Lady of Country, she came to be known for her string of hurting hits: "I Don't Wanna Play House," "D-I-V-O-R-C-E" and the iconic "Stand by Your Man."

For Wynette, who died in Nashville on Monday at 55, love was never free and the human condition was pain, struggle, compromise. Her songs — by a variety of Nashville workhorses but all sung with the same intensity — were populated by straying men, sobbing moms and damaged kids. In one, a little girl plays with crayons, but the colors are all wrong. Or are they?

A chill came over me as I realized that she had colored things as she thought they belonged.

She colored mommy blue with her eyes crying.

She made our home as gray as the dawn.

She made the sun as black as night as if to say it held no light.

But she didn't color daddy 'cause he's gone.

In another song, one of Wynette's string of No. 1 country hits, a child is overheard telling her friend:

I don't wanna play house. I know it can't be fun. I've watched mommy and daddy and if that's the way it's done

I don't wanna play house — it makes my mommy cry. Cause when she played house my daddy said good-bye.

She wasn't the best singer in Nashville. Though her voice and style were quintessential country — brassy, drawling, nasal — the tone could get a little hoarse in the lower register and thin up top. None of the virtuosity of Patsy Cline or the infectious purity of Dolly Parton.

But Wynette outdid them both, and every other woman in country music history. Thirty million records. Overwhelmingly, her fans

Long before talk radio therapy, long before a million men prayed at the Capitol to be better fathers, she sang out the pain of broken families.

were other women. Not "jet set" women, to borrow from one of her duets with the great George Jones. Ordinary women, who saw themselves in her music.

She wasn't guessing about this stuff. "I feel I'm a very average woman," Wynette once said. "I can relate to any woman because I've worked in a shoe factory, been a barmaid, a waitress, worked in a garment factory and picked cotton."

And she knew what she was talking about when it came to divorce. The husband who survives her, George Richey, was her fifth. Her turbulent marriage to Jones was country music's answer to Liz Taylor and Richard Burton, a tragedy played as soap opera on the tabloid stage.

Her first marriage came at 18, early along her rags-to-riches story. Born in Itawamba County, Mississippi, she grew up fatherless and poor. Her education came at a beauty academy and at the college



Mark Humphrey/TD, Associated Press

Wynette was honored by Nashville and Merle Haggard in 1991.

of hard living. Her dream was to sing, and so she carried her guitar from door to door through Nashville's music district.

The producer Billy Sherrill invited her in. A country outsider bred on rock and rhythm-and-blues, Sherrill heard a cash register ringing in the cry in Wynette's voice. He backed her with the soaring strings and choirs that marked the so-called Nashville Sound and, in 1967 and 1968, produced the early hits that would make her a cultural touchstone.

Long before "Dr. Laura" Schlessinger conquered talk radio with

her conservative family therapy, long before anyone could imagine a million Promise Keepers praying to be better fathers at the foot of the U.S. Capitol, Wynette sang out the pain of broken families.

Our little boy is 4 years old and quite a little man.

So we spell out the words we don't want him to understand. Like T-O-Y or maybe S-U-R-R-I-S-E.

But the words we're hiding from him now tear the heart right out of me.

Our D-I-V-O-R-C-E becomes final today.

Me and little J-O-E will be going away.

I love you both and this will be pure H-E-double-L for me. Oh I wish that we could stop this D-I-V-O-R-C-E.

Mind you, she wasn't saying that marriage was easy. Her most memorable song was "Stand by Your Man" (1968), a collaboration by Sherrill and Wynette. It is an anthem for the women who keep trying.

"Sometimes it's hard to be a woman," the song begins. Even then, the statistics were clear to women of the working class: divorced, they worked harder while getting poorer. After her first divorce, Wynette supported three kids on her beautician's salary. Sticking with a cheater, on the other hand, meant that "you'll have bad times and he'll have good times, doing things that you don't understand."

"But if you love him you'll forgive him," she sang. Predictably, a chorus of outrage ensued. The title of the song became a shorthand for everything feminism opposed. In the coming world, women would be treated right by men. In Wynette's world, few women were so lucky. Forgiveness was a greater virtue than indignation.

The song struck an incredible chord, becoming the best-selling single ever recorded by a female country artist.

Tammy Wynette ruled country music when country wasn't cool. In recent years, with the music more hip than it has ever been, she could hardly get on the radio. Her last hit — No. 1 in 18 countries, though not in the United States — was a sort of spoof on her legend, recorded with the British electronic dance band the KLF.

But she had always sung with simple honesty, with passion and courage, and so new fans kept finding her, old fans stuck by her, people bought her records and wore them out. They'll miss her, because in their hearts they know she was right.

PEOPLE

THE country music artists Reba McEntire and Lee Roy Parnell have joined 24 other performers in suing a California businessman who linked their names to an Internet porn site. "It's incredibly important to me that when you get on the Internet and bring up my name, it's what I stand for," Parnell said as the artists announced the trademark infringement and right-of-publicity lawsuit filed against Jim E. Salmon of Los Angeles. Alan Jackson, Trace Adkins, Bryan White, Deana Carter, Vince Gill and Tracy Lawrence are among the other artists who brought the lawsuit.

'Shine' Pianist to Play in Austria

Agence France-Presse

VIENNA — The pianist David Helfgott, whose travails inspired the making of the hit movie "Shine," is scheduled to give two concerts in Austria in June.

Helfgott has been criticized for his idiosyncratic stage activities, but he will play in Vienna on June 27 and in Innsbruck on June 29, the APA news agency reported.

The pianist, who still suffers from the mental problems portrayed in the film, will play pieces by Liszt, Rachmaninoff, Chopin, Rimsky-Korsakov and Scriabin, from his second CD compilation "Brilliantissimo," which came out last year.

A severe back injury has forced Elizabeth Taylor to cancel scheduled appearances for the next four months. "I am so sorry that I will not be able to attend any of the charitable events to which I committed myself because I have a severe compression fracture of my first lumbar which is taking its time healing," she said in a statement. She injured her back when she fell at her Bel Air, California, home on Feb. 27 as she was preparing for her 66th birthday party.

Rocker Tommy Lee, accused of kicking his wife, the actress Pamela Anderson, pleaded no contest in Malibu, California, to felony spousal abuse. The judge said he would spend six months to a year in jail. Lee was arrested in February after his wife called the police claiming the drummer had kicked her in the back and buttocks as she held their 7-week-old child, Dylan. She filed for divorce within days of the attack.

Andrew Lloyd Webber had a very musical birthday. A crowd of almost 5,000 cheered the composer and his music at a 50th birthday concert at the Royal Albert Hall in London. The party came a few days late — his birthday actually was March 22. Lloyd Webber, the composer of "Jesus Christ Superstar," "Cats" and "The Phantom of the Opera," called himself "a very, very lucky man" and dedicated the evening to "this extraordinary thing called musical theater." The show was a charity event for the National Youth Music Theatre.

A top aide to the Archbishop of Canterbury has been appointed the first chief executive of the Diana, Princess of Wales, memorial fund. Andrew Purkis will quit as public affairs secretary to the Most Reverend George Carey in June to take up the job. The fund stood at nearly \$70 million when the first grants, totaling nearly \$22 million, were made last month. Cancer and leprosy charities and children's hospitals were among the main beneficiaries.

The filmmaker Martin Scorsese, whose movies include "Taxi Driver" and "Raging Bull," has signed a two-year development deal with ABC. The agreement provides for a 13-episode television series and a miniseries. "Television is an exciting medium that reaches and influences millions of people every day," Scorsese said in a statement.

Hustler magazine publisher Larry Flynt has been indicted on obscenity and other charges in Cincinnati, Ohio, the city where he was convicted of the same charge in 1977 for distributing his magazine. Flynt has said repeatedly in recent months that he wanted a new trial on obscenity charges, because he believes that a jury today would find that his magazine does not violate community obscenity standards. This time, however, he and his brother, Jimmy, are charged with selling an obscene videotape to a 14-year-old boy. Flynt's 1977 conviction was thrown out on appeal.



Afp/Sygma/Agence France-Presse

WORTHY FO — The Italian playwright Dario Fo after being named commander of arts and letters by Culture Minister Catherine Trautmann in Paris.



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